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CORPORAL PUNISHMENT.

AMONG the domestic topics to which we alluded last week as taking their turn for discussion during the present unanimity on foreign questions, the above is not the least interesting and important. Without meddling with the mere declaimers about it (those who hate it, not for its severity, but simply because it is established, and may be made a handle against authority), nobody can deny that the custom finds assailants of more and more weight and influence year by year. Nor is this an isolated fact. It belongs to the character of the age, which shrinks from inflicting physical pain on all occasions, which agitates against cruelty to animals, the employment of children in severe toil, harshness to criminals, imprisonment for debt, and many such phenomena. It is a part of the same movement which attacks flogging in schools, and which is itself a reaction against the general severity of ancient times in all things. Our stern progenitors were of very Spartan ideas as regards castigation. Everywhere they made the cudgel an institution. Men beat their children and their servants; and all classes, when they quarreled, or thought themselves injured, resorted, as by instinct, to physical force. Nay, even now, a man's first impulse is to "horsewhip" an offender, or, in the humbler classes, to "punch his head." Fustigation, in fact, in one form or another, and not least notably in the form of religious or penitential discipline, would seem to be one of the most widespread customs or tendencies among mankind. Its philosophy might be made the subject of very deep reflection; but it is enough for our present purpose to recognise the reaction against the practice as one becoming stronger every day in our time, and to discuss a little the form which it takes in our Government establishments. The reader is aware that, first our military, and now, quite lately, our naval, authorities have established regulations the object of which is to abolish corporal punishment in their respective services. We say to "abolish" it, for this is the tendency of the modifications in the laws on the subject to which we allude. In proportion as they prove successful the practice will decline; and decline is the forerunner of death with man's customs as with man himself.

Military and naval flogging (we shall direct our attention to the latter chiefly, for the sake of unity and convenience) are often attacked as if they proved some special brutality in military and naval institutions or the persons administering these. Nothing could be more ignorant or unfair. There is more cruelty—more infliction of pain from want of feeling or temper—in any half-dozen merchant craft than in her Majesty's ships.

Every day's police reports show cases of it which the history of the Navy for years would not match. If the custom be even tolerable in any degree, it is tolerable in a man-of-war, where a great body of men has to be kept in order within a narrow space, and for very special purposes—men from all parts of the world, whose very names are often assumed ones, and their antecedents utterly unknown. It is difficult to substitute other punishments in a ship, also, where there is little room to spare, and where every working man is wanted for work. Offences in a ship, too, acquire new proportions. It seems hard to flog a man for drunkenness, a vice which ashore sometimes only damages the offender himself. But a convivial man sympathising with the suffering toper afloat would have little sympathy on land with a drunken cabman or apprentice who should run over his child or set his house on fire. Yet these are dangers analogous to the dangers of drunkenness at sea, where there is no spacious House of Correction, or Newgate either, for the social convenience. Other illustrations might easily be brought. Let this suffice to show the need of some peculiar chastisement for what the circumstances make a peculiar offence, and to justify the authorities in not abolishing the power to inflict it altogether. If we added another, it would be the case of theft at sea, with regard to which we are certain that the seaman would object to the abolition of the present mode of punishment for it.

Why, then, are we glad of the modifications in the power of flogging just introduced? Because they will have the effect of taking away even all appearance of wantonness from the infliction of it. Hitherto Captains in the Navy have been left too much to their individual judgments in the matter, whence the great disparity in the amount of punishment in each ship. It has not been quite clear what offences justified the lash, and what did not. Any amount of lashes up to four dozen could be inflicted, not without responsibility, but without a court-martial. Now the entire seamen and marines are to be divided into a first and a second class, of which the first, composed of all who have "good" certificates, will be virtually exempt from flogging, except in the case of open mutiny, and then only by sentence of court-martial. The second class, to which, however, it is a man's own fault if he is confined, will be equally exempt, unless by court-martial sentence, save when they may commit the offences of—1, insubordinate conduct; 2, desertion; 3, repeated drunkenness; 4, smuggling liquor into the ship; 5, theft; 6, repeated disobedience of orders; 7, desertion of post; 8, indecent assaults. There is no margin left for capricious

severity on the part of the commander. If a man is not already in the inferior grade, and does not knowingly lay himself open to one of those charges, he is as safe as if he were an independent proprietor ashore. He will have no excuse for not knowing the risk he runs, since the regulation is frequently to be read to the crews when publicly assembled. Before this time it was known that some Captains were more lenient than others; a man might calculate on a soft gentleman and catch a tartar. We think the most valuable feature of the change to be the abolition of all uncertainty. Here are the offences, and the men, if at all, must deliberately and knowingly incur the punishment. Observe, too, that it must be "repeated drunkenness," "repeated disobedience of orders," that will justify any Commander in using the power with which he has been heretofore invested in such cases. There is a chance left here even for the constant offender of the second class, and abundant authority in the Captain to take all mitigating circumstances into account.

We trust that the Captains and Commanders of her Majesty's ships will administer the power still left them as judiciously as possible, and always with a leaning to the side of moderation. Especially is it to be hoped that the great principle of the change—that division into two classes, due originally to the military scheme—will be carried out wisely, for there is a danger here. We must not have too fine a line drawn, or we shall have internal dissension and mischief in every ship. We must not have five hundred sheep and three hundred goats in a line-of-battle ship's crew, or the result will be dangerous jealousy and discontent. A man must be allowed his "good" certificate as a matter of course, unless where there is some serious, decided, and generally intelligible ground for withholding it.

The change under discussion cannot be too widely made known among the mercantile and nautical population. We believe that the existence of a power to flog does injure the Navy amongst these; not so much on abstract and sentimental grounds, as some writers suppose, but because the impression has been that the power has been capriciously used, according to the temper of various men. A "flogging Captain" has been a type by himself, and has been avoided with great propriety as a disgusting animal. But henceforward the law, not the Captain only, will flog, and the law will not flog where it can help it, nor ever without enabling decent men to avoid any risk of it. By-and-by, let us hope, further restrictions will be possible, as the art of government under new social conditions comes to be better understood than it yet is.



CHASI MOHAMED, THE SON OF SCHAMYL.

THE MAUM ECHAMYL

SCHAMYL'S MURID

SCHAMYL AND HIS SON.

We have lately more than once published Engravings having reference to the great Circassian Chieftain now an exile from his native mountains and a prisoner in the hands of the Russians.

The Portraits on the preceding page of himself, his son, and two of his murids, are from photographs taken in St. Petersburg, in which city the Imaum has been extensively lionised as being one of the greatest novelties of the season. A rather amusing story is told of Schamyl's suspicions as to his ultimate fate, one of his ideas being that Siberia would be chosen as his future place of abode. In this conviction he had furtively supplied himself with a pocket-compass, and whenever he was taken for a drive he would anxiously consult his indicator to ascertain if he was being conducted in the much-dreaded direction. By recent accounts we learn he has petitioned the Czar to allow him to retire, like Ab-del-Kader, to some eastern residence where he will enjoy the society of his coreligionists.

The following extracts from the journal of a young Russian nobleman who served as Aide-de-Camp to Prince Bariatinsky at the capture of Schamyl, and which have been courteously placed at our disposal, will be read with interest:—

"On the 11th of August I was on duty, and was ordered to prepare to accompany the Prince on an expedition the glorious end to which I little anticipated. We sallied out at six a.m. by a very rugged and uneven road, following the course of the River Caysoo. At the village of Egal we joined the detachment of General Prince Mirsky, and, continuing our way, shortly reached Safello, the point where General Baron Wrangel lately performed his extraordinary passage of the above-mentioned stream. We pushed on along the banks of the river amidst rocks interspersed occasionally with vineyards in which were abundance of grapes. On our left we passed the village of Tchirkaty, and, scrambling up a steep pathway in the hills, descried from their summit the Soorkhaieff Tower, where Schamyl and his murids made a desperate defence, the Imaum only escaping by sliding down a rope into the bed of the Caysoo. Having traversed the village of Ashilta, where our troops met with a signal discomfiture in 1839, we bivouaced for the night, being too weary to proceed further on that day. As our commissariat was considerably in the rear, we had nothing to eat except what scanty fare each had taken in his pockets. An impromptu tent was constructed for the Prince, and the rest of us lay down in our cloaks *à la belle étoile*. On awaking we were completely drenched with dew and—what made the matter worse—our baggage was in the same condition, the waggon that contained it having upset in crossing the river. Under these conditions we were allowed a day of repose, when "hanging out to dry" was the order of the day.

"On the following morning, the 13th of August, we struck camp betimes, and renewed our march by a narrow and steep route. Two paces in advance of me the horse of an unlucky dragoon missed its footing, and rolled over the precipice, rider and all. We now penetrated into the heart of Avaria, the mighty Karanai rising on our left, while beneath us vast plains stretched far away to the Caspian. Descending to the plain of the Avarian Caysoo, we threaded the course of the turbulent river, advancing along a hedge but a few feet in width, rocks 200 fathoms high projecting above our heads. Crossing a suspended bridge, we entered the famous Ghimry, the birthplace of Schamyl, and the scene of the heroic death of his predecessor. It is a beautiful village, situated at the foot of the Karanai, and surrounded by luxuriant gardens. The inhabitants, after welcoming us with bread and salt, set before us mutton, cheese, and various kinds of delicious fruits. It was fearfully toilsome ascending the mountain, the heat being beyond endurance, and when at last we reached the summit we found bad water and scanty forage for the horses.

"August 14.—After a dreary march, without passing a single village to cheer us on the road, we pitch our camp upon the hills.

"August 15.—The reveille was beaten at 5 a.m. We reach, the capital of Avaria, and observe the site of a Russian fortress since destroyed by ourselves. Here we again encamp, and a distribution of presents was made to the inhabitants.

"August 16.—We pursue our march from six a.m. till noon. At our resting-place the Prince is met by the powerful Naib of Tilsli, who conducts us to his residence, where we are entertained by a sumptuous breakfast spread out on carpets. To-morrow is our last march before reaching Goonib, where Schamyl is intrenched in his last and most impregnable fortress.

"August 17.—At six a.m. we begin the ascent of the rocky height from whose summit may be perceived the truncated cone of the mountain on which the Imaum awaits us. At its base are the white tents of Baron Wrangel's troops blockading Schamyl. We descend and pitch our camp near Prince Tarkhanoff's detachment. Our battalions receive us with salutes of artillery. In the evening is heard firing beyond Goonib, probably an affair of outposts. A mad bullock, brought as a present by the inhabitants, breaks loose, tossing whoever comes in its way, and making us all run for our lives. After considerable difficulty it is destroyed.

"August 18.—Having still to join Baron Wrangel's corps, we continue our march round Goonib. Three cannon shots from the enemy are directed against us, but the balls fortunately pass harmlessly overhead. At the same time we receive a welcome from the fortress of Tchakha, only lately occupied by us, and the inhabitants of the village cut the throats of several oxen in our presence. At two p.m. we form a junction with Baron Wrangel's division. Never have I seen such a triumphant meeting. Twelve guns in battery on the heights greet us with 101 peals, 16,000 men rend the air with their hurrahs, while the bands of all the regiments strike up their soul-stirring music. The Prince, in the name of the Emperor, thanks the soldiers as they defile before him.

"We are about to offer conditions to Schamyl, but it is said he will accept none, and that the business will not be over till we storm the place.

"Aug. 19.—The negotiations with the Imaum have commenced through Daniel Sultan and Colonel Lazareff. There is great betting in the camp as to the chance of Schamyl surrendering, or our being obliged to oust him out.

"Aug. 21.—We have passed all the day in expectations that Schamyl or his son would make their appearance in our lines. Schamyl, who has been offered a pension and a free journey to Mecca, remains obstinate. We can clearly see from the camp the whole of his position on the mountains, the plain on its summit being slightly inclined towards us. The single or almost only approach to the plateau is interrupted by earthworks thrown up in defence. On a white spot in the midst of the green tent of Schamyl is clearly perceptible through a telescope. The village of Goonib lies in a recess in the middle of the inclined plain.

"Aug. 22.—To day a messenger arrives from St. Petersburg the bearer of the Cross of St. George of the 2nd Class, awarded to the Prince in consideration of the expedition so successfully performed some weeks ago.

"The negotiations with Schamyl, who turns a deaf ear to all our offers, are now broken off, so we shall have either to carry his position or besiege him. In the latter case we are in for a whole winter of sleet and snow."

"Aug. 23.—To-day there was a great movement amongst the troops, hostilities were resumed, and the army drew nearer to Goonib for its investment in form. The enemy opened fire from various points of the mountain, but with little effect. This continued throughout the entire day. Every moment directions for storming were expected. The soldiers were growing impatient. The siege department was intrusted to Kepler, General of Engineers. At night we heard distant volleys of musketry; fires sparkled here and there on the dark ridges of Goonib.

"Aug. 24.—The firing of cannon continued till noon. Pieces of rock which were rolled down from the mountain the previous night wounded several men of the Shirvan Regiment, crushing one of them to death. Kepler, however, made himself master of the gardens and defences lying beneath the chief works of the enemy.

"Aug. 25.—The cannonade lasted all night and sounded like distant thunder. Kepler succeeded in reaching Schamyl's principal

defences. While ascending with his party he heard high above his head Russian hurrahs, which caused the enemy abruptly to retreat. This is how the surprise happened:—Whilst Kepler was working his way up from the front, and keeping the greatest part of the enemy's forces on the alert, Prince Tarkhanoff was clambering up the hill on the opposite side with his column, beating drums and cheering loudly. The enemy, taking this for an attempt to storm the place, rushed to the edge of the precipice and rolled down on Tarkhanoff's men massive fragments of rock that lay heaped up for the defence. Luckily no mischief was done, as Tarkhanoff was protected by an overhanging cliff. After waiting three hours in that position, he began scaling the rocks by means of ropes and ladders, but without noise, thus contriving to gain the top of the mountain unobserved, and, when at last discovered, all efforts to check him were unavailing. Then it was that Schamyl, taken in the rear, abandoned his intrenchments. In front Kepler made the best of his way to the summit, and both detachments, having met, surrounded the Imaum, who had shut himself up in the Aoul, the last defence of his family and murids. As soon as Prince Bariatinsky heard of this success he mounted his horse and climbed the steep ascent. Partial firing continued all the time between our troops and Schamyl's partisans who had concealed themselves in the clefts and rocks.

"Fearing that Schamyl might somehow escape or be killed, the Prince promised a reward of ten thousand roubles to the soldier who should capture him alive. Schamyl now sent his confidential adviser to learn if the Russian General-in-Chief was present, and to parley with him. He was, however, sent back with the message that the Imaum was to come himself; that his life, family, and property would be respected; and that no other condition could be offered. Schamyl sent a reply that he feared to be killed unless the troops were removed to a distance, but he was assured that nothing was to be feared on that score. An hour passed without the Imaum making his appearance, and the Generals begged for permission to storm the Aoul. The Prince would not listen to this, and said he would wait, if necessary, till the morrow. Suddenly a wild, enthusiastic hurrah resounded over the entire mountain. Schamyl issued from the Aoul on horseback, accompanied by sixty armed murids. Halfway to the Prince the murids were stopped and the Imaum advanced alone. He had a cheerful countenance and manly bearing. He was dressed in green, and wore on his head a large white turban with a tail. He was very pale, and his lips quivered, but his voice was firm. He commenced by raking up old offences—how the Russians had cheated him, and how they probably intended to put him to death. The Prince replied this was an improper and groundless assertion, and that he had nothing to fear. To see the Imaum in our hands and to hear him speak was like a dream. Before leaving for our camp, Schamyl performed his 'namase' (prayer), and took a last farewell of his native mountains. Troops formed a circle round him; the sun was sinking beyond the western hills; and, amidst the glory of its parting rays, we took our departure from the scene of the greatest of our successes in the Caucasus, the long-dreaded Imaum a prisoner in our hands."

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

On Wednesday Prince Metternich presented his *lettres de créance*. Two court carriages and six conveyed the Ambassador and his suite to the Tuileries. At the Place de Carrousel a battalion of Chasseurs of the Guard and a battalion of Infantry of the Line, with music and standard, were drawn up. The Chamberlain and the Master of the Ceremonies conducted the Ambassador into the Salle de Trône. Prince Metternich, in his speech to the Emperor, expressed his satisfaction at the happy re-establishment of good relations between Austria and France, and hoped that the ties uniting the two countries may become every day stronger. The Emperor replied as follows:—

"I have the firm hope that the relations which have been so happily re-established between the Emperor of Austria and myself cannot but become more friendly by an attentive examination of the interests of the two countries. Since I have seen the Emperor I attach a great value to his friendship. The sincere agreement between us will be facilitated by the choice of a representative whose conciliatory spirit is known, and who has so many titles to my confidence and to my esteem."

Prince Metternich was also presented to the Empress, and afterwards paid his first state visit to the Ambassadors of England, Russia, and Spain.

Marshal Randon, Minister of War, is said to have tendered his resignation.

The Prussian Ambassador, Count Pourtales, left Paris for Berlin on Tuesday in consequence of a telegram received from his Government. He is expected to return in time to be present at the diplomatic reception on New-Year's Day. M. Mon left on that day for Madrid; he also will return to "assist" at the Congress.

Prince Jerome Napoleon was again attacked on Wednesday with inflammation of the lungs. His state was very grave and causes serious apprehensions. The Emperor and Empress visited his Imperial Highness.

ITALY.

The *Prussian Gazette* affirms that the Pope has given a positive promise to effect reforms. It asserts that there exists an obligatory act by which the Holy Father formally pledges himself to increase the Finance Consulta by a certain number of members freely elected, and to give it more extended attributions. The body in question is to have not only the right of examining the various articles of the budget (with the exception of the Pope's civil list), but a deliberative voice in the matter. In addition, the journal mentioned above declares that the communal organisation is to undergo notable modifications, as the municipal functionaries are to be selected exclusively among the laity, and their powers are to be increased.

A Paris correspondent of the *Nord* explains the attack on M. Maniscalco in the following manner:—"A general rising had been prepared in Sicily, and different partial attempts had been commenced, when the whole movement failed, owing to the vigilance of the Director-General of the Police. The secret societies condemned him to death, and it was one of the members chosen by lot who attempted to carry the sentence into execution."

The nomination of the Chevalier de Jocteau as Minister Plenipotentiary of the King of Sardinia to the Court of Vienna has been definitively decided upon.

SPAIN AND MOROCCO.

The war in Morocco does not go on very brilliantly; and, upon the whole, the Moors seem to have rather the best of it at present. An affair is reported from "El Ottero, Dec. 9," as follows:—"This morning the enemy impetuously attacked our redoubts, but were energetically repulsed by the garrison, and retired to the valley commanded by these redoubts. The enemy then came up again, but were attacked and repulsed by 10,000 men of the second corps, serving as our vanguard. The Moors lost 300 killed and 1000 wounded. The approximate loss of the Spanish was 30 officers, 280 men wounded, and 40 killed."

This reads pretty much as if the Spaniards were rather proud of retaining their (intrenched) position, and that though they had a reserve of 10,000 men.

Again, in a telegram from Madrid, dated the 13th, we read:—"General Prim has been attacked on the road to Tetuan. The Moors were repulsed with great loss. The Spanish had 40 killed and wounded."

On the 3rd—some days previous to the engagements above recorded—the Spaniards attempted an advance in the direction of Tetuan, but gave it up because 3000 Moors were hanging on their flank, though the nature of the ground prevented the Spaniards from being actually attacked.

In reading these accounts we must remember that the Spaniards write them: probably we should hear a different story from the Moors. Their account, indeed, of the action fought on the 25th of November repre-

sents their own loss as about 100 killed, and puts down the Spanish as 2000 killed and wounded. Twenty-three Spanish prisoners are said to have been taken to Tangier, as well as 400 muskets, some camp kettles, and a number of drums and other musical instruments. According to the latest reports a bloody war had been proclaimed throughout the empire. If true, this will have the effect of bringing thousands of armed Moors down to the seaboard. From Mogador we have a list of the contingents furnished by the Moorish tribes in that part of the empire: there are fifteen tribes, and altogether they muster 152,000 men, of whom 38,000 are cavalry.

We are given to understand that the Spaniards, until the whole of the expeditionary force will have arrived, are rather inclined to remain on the defensive, and are not likely to challenge their enemies. On the 13th the third corps-d'armée disembarked at Malaga. The Spanish Government has given orders for a levy of 50,000 men in January next.

Marshal O'Donnell has made himself ridiculous by attempting to shake the allegiance of the Moors towards their Government by a proclamation in the style of Napoleon I. Thus it runs:—

Inhabitants of Morocco!—In penetrating into your country we shall be neither your tyrants nor your enemies. Your Emperor, who has refused us justice, forces us to have recourse to arms to obtain it—it is he who has destroyed the generous friendship which Spain has always accorded you! Do not fear, however, that we shall make an abusive use of our triumph or of your submission—Spanish soldiers are always generous in victory, and your submission will give you a claim to our consideration and friendship. Continue with confidence your ordinary labours. I promise you the aid and protection of my soldiers! I promise that your religion and customs shall be respected by all. The Spanish soldier, faithful to his Queen and his country, is only to be feared in the moment of combat!

LEOPOLDO O'DONNELL, General-in-Chief.

One of the Madrid journals says that though, as a general rule, the Moors will not allow themselves to be taken prisoners, yet that eleven were captured in the affair of the 25th ult.; of these eleven, however, it adds, not fewer than eight killed themselves.

The chaplains who accompany the troops in Morocco are, like those of the middle ages, warriors as well as priests. The chaplain of the Madrid battalion of riflemen is represented as having in various engagements figured in sacred vestments, armed with a carbine, and exciting the soldiers to be courageous.

Cholera is dying out of the Spanish camp.

AUSTRIA.

The Austrian Government appears to be alarmed at the political excitement which has broken out in Hungary, and has already taken measures to repress it. Large bodies of troops have been marched into the country, and the Government is represented as deliberating on the question whether a state of siege should not be proclaimed. A correspondent in Pesth reports that the Emperor of Austria contemplates abdicating the Crown in favour of his son, a child born on the 21st of August, 1858, and appointing as Regent his brother, the Archduke Maximilian, formerly Governor of Lombardo-Venetia. "The reason assigned for the projected abdication is that the Emperor sees with dismay that Austria is going to wrack and ruin, and shrinks from the risk of figuring personally in history as 'the last of the Hapsburgs.' On the other hand, being an obstinate and wrongheaded young man, he will not consent to make the important concessions to the different parts of his Empire, and especially to Hungary, by which alone the dangers now impending over Austria could, perhaps, for a time be averted." There is not the smallest probability in this story, but the fact of its currency in Pesth is not without significance.

The *Imperial Law Gazette* of Vienna publishes a decree ordering the payment of the interest of the national loan falling due on and after the 1st of January next to be made in silver, as formerly.

RUSSIA.

The nobles of Podolia, encouraged by the gracious demeanour of the Emperor Alexander while on a tour in the country, ventured to make him an address, setting forth certain grievances. "In this address," says the *Revue Contemporaine*, "they expressed their gratitude to the Emperor for the permission which his Majesty had been pleased to grant them to emancipate the peasants. They went on to state that they looked upon the present voyage of his Majesty into the countries under his government as a proof of his desire to hear on their own ground the wishes of his subjects, and to judge in person of the wants of the provinces belonging to the empire, in order to enable him to ensure their prosperity. They ventured, therefore, to lay at the feet of his Throne the just demands of the inhabitants of Podolia with regard to some of their most pressing wants. They implored his Majesty, in the first place, that he may be pleased to give orders that the Catholic religion, which is exposed to frequent persecutions from the authorities, may practically enjoy the rights which have been granted to it. We might remind our readers, in explanation of this demand, that at the accession of the Emperor Alexander II. a lively desire was manifested by the populations, which under the reign of his predecessor had been forced to become schismatics, to return to the United Greek religion, or even to the Roman Catholic faith. These symptoms were revealed simultaneously among the inhabitants of both town and country. They trusted in the toleration of the Government, but they soon perceived their mistake on seeing that the imprisonment of priests and the formation of commissions of inquiry were renewed. The nobility asked, secondly, that the Polish language might be used in the universities where it is not allowed. Not only is it not taught, but students who make use of the national language in their conversation are punished, in pursuance of the system introduced by the Emperor Nicholas. Lastly, they petitioned that the public functionaries in the various branches of the police, the administration, and the courts of justice, with the exception of the governors, should be elected by the nobility out of their own body, as they are in Russia. This law is not observed by the Government of Podolia, Volhynia, and Ukraine. There the nobility is only permitted to elect the district marshals for the administrative department. As regards criminal and civil jurisdiction, two deputies only are allowed to be chosen in each province. The other functionaries, who are nominated and appointed by the Governor, are generally selected from strangers, or people of mean extraction, and do not always shine either by their morality or ability. This, too, is a continuance of the system established by the Emperor Nicholas in a less repulsive form.

"The Emperor Alexander, on hearing the tenor of the address, refused to receive it, and insisted, in his reply, on the unlawfulness of such a step on the part of the nobility. We are assured that he qualified the proceeding as a 'conspiracy,' and dismissed the deputation with an expression of regret at his being unable to address them in more gracious terms."

Michael Desobrazoff, nephew of Prince Orloff, lately presented to the Emperor, we hear, a memorial, in which he endeavoured to warn the Emperor against the evil counsellors about his person, who were leading him and the empire to the brink of a precipice. The Judges and the administrative functionaries, said he, "are corrupt and have lost all sense of honour; the monarchy is on the verge of bankruptcy and political dissolution," &c. The Council of the Empire, to which this memorial was submitted, declared its author guilty of high treason. Prince Orloff, as a relative of the accused, abstained from voting. Prince Wasiili Dolgorouki and Count Schouwaloff did not appear at the sitting, and M. Desobrazoff was declared to have forfeited his rank as a noble, to be stripped of all his functions, and exiled to Wiatak.

There was a report that the Emperor of China had given the Russians on the Amoor notice to quit, as he had never authorised the cession of territory, and had only just heard of the settlement; and that meanwhile the Russian Embassy at Peking was "sealed up" in its palace. This rumour is warmly contradicted by the Russian journals.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

A Ministerial crisis appears to have been brought about by the dissensions between Fuad Pacha and Riza Pacha. Fuad tendered his resignation, which was refused by the Sultan, but a permanent agree-

ment between the two Ministers appeared impossible. Fuad Pacha was the only Minister, it seems, who continued to oppose the Suez Canal.

Letters from Constantinople to the 7th inst. announce positively that M. Thouvenel had remitted a note to the Porte containing an official demand for a firm favour to this project. The Ambassadors of Austria, Prussia, Russia, and Sardinia simultaneously supported that demand. A Council of Ministers was then held. Fuad Pacha confessed that he had formally engaged himself to refuse the authorisation to the Canal project. The Grand Vizier declared he would not recognise such engagement. After a stormy discussion the Ministers agreed to request the Powers which had made the above demand to come to an understanding with England on the matter. Sir Henry Bulwer had been received by the Sultan, and had numerous conferences with the Ministers.

The Envoy of Prince Daniel of Montenegro at Constantinople has been assassinated.

We have reports of Turkish reforms. The Sultan's Government has made an agreement with the Constantinople bankers that they are to keep the exchange with England, for a consideration, always below 110 piasters per pound. In return the Turkish Government undertakes to withdraw 250 millions of paper money from circulation. But a telegram has arrived in the meantime, saying that it cannot fulfil this obligation because the necessary cash is not to be found in the Turkish treasury.

WEST COAST OF AFRICA.

The mail from the west coast of Africa brings the news that affairs on the River Cameroons were in a very unsettled state, the free population being in daily expectation of a rising among the slaves.

A civil war was expected at Bonny, in consequence of the Regent, Illolah-pepple, having seized and murdered a woman, accused of witchcraft, belonging to the house of another chief named Tulefare, who in return seized two men belonging to the house of the Regent, whom he refused to deliver up.

Great improvements were in progress at Fernando Po, many hundreds of labourers having been brought from the Kroo country for the purpose of clearing land, making roads, &c. Active measures were being taken by the Spaniards to colonise the adjacent islands of Annobon, Crisso, &c.

An attempt had been again made to fire the town of Lagos by some incendiaries: two women were burnt to death. Fortunately very little damage was done. Trade had been freely opened by two kings in the interior; and business was very brisk.

Cooje, King of Accra, was again taken prisoner and placed in the fort.

A slaver, without name or colour, captured by her Majesty's ship *Spirit*, Captain Chapman, at Jackmel, in the neighbourhood of Lagos, had arrived in Sierra Leone in charge of a prize crew. At the time of her seizure she had on board 469 slaves, the whole of whom had been shipped on board the evening previous in the short space of one hour and a half.

Captain Walker, of the American schooner *William*, bound from Savannah to Smyrna, had been picked up at sea in an open boat, with four men. He states that he was deserted at sea by his mate, who made off with the schooner and 27,000 dollars in cash, which was on board.

The barque *Madras*, from London to Sierra Leone, was abandoned at sea on the 23rd of November, and the captain and crew picked up and taken to Madeira.

AMERICA.

All feeling and excitement in regard to the controversy about the island of San Juan appears to have died out in America, where it is thought General Scott will initiate an amicable adjustment between the two Governments. There is a rumour, however, of some unpleasant allusion to the affair by President Buchanan in his approaching Message.

The most exciting topic of conversation was the approaching execution of Brown and his accomplices in the Harper's Ferry affair. From a paragraph in another part of our paper it will be seen the Government are not unprepared for an attempt at rescue under the gallows.

An association was in course of formation throughout California for the purpose of debarring the Chinese from all employment except such as is of a menial character.

Havannah dates to the 26th of November. General Serano, the new Captain-General of Cuba, had arrived out, and had been inaugurated at Havannah with considerable splendour.

The civil war in Mexico still rages. A battle had occurred at Indanango, in which 400 men were killed and half the town was burnt. The Liberals were victorious. It was reported that a compromise had been proposed between the hostile leaders.

INDIA.

NANA SAHIB.

According to the Nepal correspondent of the *Calcutta Englishman* "the Government officials do not now disbelieve the report of Nana Rao's death. The Nana died on the 24th of September, of fever, at a place called 'Tara Ghurrie,' near to Dhang and Dukhur. He had suffered previously from repeated attacks, and at one time was so ill that his attendants believed him to be dead, and the usual gifts were distributed amongst the Brahmins; he, however, recovered partially, and did not die till the 24th of September. His dead body had been seen by credible witnesses, and his body was burnt in their presence with the usual Hindoo rites. Jola Persaud, the confidential attendant of the late Nana, has now charge of the family and whatever treasure may be left."

THE REBELS.

Seven columns were in motion on the Nepal frontier against the rebels. It is said that the rebel force there "consists of about 6000 of all kinds, of whom about 1000 are sowars. This number includes, also, camp followers, women, and children; so, perhaps, besides the sowars, only 3000 sepoys remain. The greater number of these are encamped in the Dhang and Dukhur valley over the first range of hills, but still small bodies are dotted about at the edge of the Terai jungle all along the Nepal frontier. Bance Madhuh and Mummoo Khan are also in the Dhang and Dukhur valley, but the larger body of men are attached to Jola Persaud, the late Nana's confidential servant. They have still remaining with them about two elephant loads of Government ammunition. A Ghoorka force is said to be approaching the outer range of hills, and the rebels are informed by their sirdars that this force is coming to assist them against the British. The Begum has written to them not to be afraid, for help was coming to them soon. The Ghoorka Government has written to the rebels, telling them to clear out of their territory; but, as the letters were addressed to the rebel sirdars, it is probable that the mass of the rebels know nothing about it. The Begum is at Nyah Kote still, but without any troops. She is in the charge of Puhulwan Singh, a Ghoorka General. The Nepal Government will not coerce her. Some of the rebels had tried to advance northward to get into Tibet, but the Ghoorkas disarmed them and sent them back into the Terai. The sepoys have had no regular pay from their chiefs since they left Lucknow; but, until Nana Rao's death, they were always regularly fed."

COMPENSATION TO BRITISH SUBJECTS.

The final decree on the subject of compensation has been published. All who have lost immovable property are to receive half its value up to £100, and a third of its value after that. Thus, if a planter's buildings were worth £3000, he receives £100 + $\frac{2}{3}$ £2800 = £1033. All who have lost movable property are to receive only one-third its value, and that third is not to exceed £500. The Delhi Bank, therefore, and one or two more sufferers, will obtain practically no compensation at all. No insurance-office is to have compensation—a curious exclusion.

Some of the Europeans of Lucknow, who lost perhaps more than any class, and did soldiers' work besides, have been splendidly rewarded. Mr. Schelling, for example, the two Captains Orr, the two Hearsays, and Captain Bunbury have received jaghires worth £1000 a year each. Almost the whole of the escheated estates in Oude have now been given away, some of them in enormous slices.

One man is said to have got more than Wellington received for Waterloo.

These gifts stand in curious contrast with a measure just adopted. All brigade commands have been abolished in spite, it is said, of the opposition of the Commander-in-Chief. The brigade is now to be commanded by the senior officer of the station without allowances. The measure, which causes a saving of only 1800r. a month, has created considerable annoyance.

INDIAN TROOPS FOR CHINA.

Sir Hope Grant has accepted the command of the China expedition. No, details, however, have yet transpired, and it is said they will not be settled till the return of Lord Canning to Calcutta in December. It is known that a strong force of Sikhs are to go, but none of the regiments are yet named. The war is by no means popular among officials, but the necessity is recognised, and of course the army likes adventure.

THE KING OF OUDE.

The ex-King of Oude seems at last to have become resigned to his fate. The resolution with which he declined to sign away his sovereignty has given way, and we now see him recognising his position as no longer King of Oude, and mingling among the loyal and busy subjects of her Majesty the Queen. Among the advertisements in the papers we see his signature plain "Wuzlet Alea," ex-King of Oude.

A STRIKE IN INDIA.

The Assam Tea Company has just escaped a danger with which we in England are only too familiar. On the 17th of October their labourers, thousands in number, and all Cacharees, struck work for an increase of pay. Not receiving it, they threatened the managing director, Mr. De Mornay, and the superintendent of the factory, Mr. McIntosh, with death, and marched on the residence of the latter to execute their threat. Fortunately for the company, the Assistant Commissioner, Captain Holroyd, was cognisant of the affair, and aware that the labourers really meant murder. He marched down fifty sepoys from Debrooghur, disarmed the rioters, arrested twenty-six ringleaders, sentenced twenty-one to imprisonment for short periods, and offered the remainder their discharge. They refused to accept it, and, joining their hands, declared themselves in the wrong, and went back to work, just as enraged children might have done. The company is remarkable in India for its quietness and obedience to the law; but it maintains, it is thought, rather too strict a control over its rate of wages. While it was struggling upwards they were kept low of necessity, and they have, perhaps, not been sufficiently increased. Still the workmen were free to go if they liked.

CHINA.

The news from China is that Mr. Bruce remained at Shanghai and Admiral Hope at Hong-Kong. The Chinese were taking energetic measures with the view of defence, Sankolinsin, the Tartar Chief, being at the head of affairs. Contributions were sought for by Government from the trading communities, which responded but feebly to this call on their patriotism.

At Canton the reorganisation of the Custom House, under the direction of foreign inspectors, had created much excitement, and was likely to affect trade. The American Consul had refused his assent to the new system until he communicated with Mr. Ward, who was expected from Japan.

Another steamer has been lost between Shanghai and Hong-Kong—viz., the *James Hartley*. Officers and crew saved. Her Majesty's gun-boat *Bustard* was dispatched to the wreck, and by the praiseworthy exertions of Lieutenant Hallows and those under his command all the treasure on board the steamer was got up and brought safely to Hong-Kong. When Lieutenant Hallows reached her the vessel had been in the hands of the Chinese for some days.

A large fire broke out at Hong-Kong on the night of the 18th of October, which at one time threatened great destruction, but the efforts of the seamen and marines from her Majesty's ships, under the direction of the Admiral himself, checked the course of the flames. The Roman Catholic church and buildings attached to it were destroyed.

THE EXECUTION OF "OLD BROWN."

LETTERS from America inform us that the approaching execution of Brown, whilst it has tended to increase the excitement in the public mind, had called forth every precaution that might be rendered necessary in the event of a rescue being attempted. A correspondent, writing from Harper's Ferry, says:—

The arrangements for Brown's execution are now nearly completed, and every precaution has been taken to guard against a surprise or disturbance of any kind.

I have just learned that the most stringent regulations have been adopted in regard to the presence of civilians at the execution. All applications for passes for civilians to attend within the military lines are refused by the Governor, on the ground that it would conflict with the military programme. He said that no civilian could, under any circumstances, be admitted within the military lines, the outer one of which would be nearly a mile from the scaffold. Not a word of what John Brown may utter, if he should say anything, will therefore be audible to the men forming even the line next the gallows.

Governor Wise stated the cause of this exclusion of all persons other than the military to be that in the event of an attempted rescue an order to fire upon the prisoner will be given, and those within the lines, especially those sufficiently near the gallows to hear what Brown may say, would inevitably share his fate.

This will give you an idea of what the authorities of Virginia think of this affair. The imposing solemnity of the occasion will indicate to the North the feeling here on this matter.

Another writer, writing from Charleston, adds:—

On Saturday and Sunday the town was crowded with strangers and soldiers. Extensive preparations are making for the reception of additional military forces, which are hourly expected. The churches have all been taken possession of for barracks. Sentinels nightly fire at imaginary foes, and a number of citizens have narrowly escaped their bullets. On Sunday night the military confidently expected an attack, and the sentries were doubled. No disturbers appeared, however. It is stated on good authority that Governor Wise has sent spies into Ohio and Pennsylvania, and it is from their reports that large bodies of men are arming and moving towards Virginia that the military forces are being so largely augmented. About 700 additional troops have arrived here since Saturday, including two companies from Wheeling, so that we have now about 1500 soldiers under arms.

Several letters written by Brown since his conviction have been published. To one friend he wrote, "I go joyfully in behalf of millions that 'have no rights' that this great and glorious, this Christian Republic, is 'bound to respect.'" To a clergyman to whom he went to school in 1817 he wrote: "As I believe most firmly that God reigns, I cannot believe that anything I have done, suffered, or may yet suffer, will be lost to the cause of God or of humanity. And before I began my work at Harper's Ferry I felt assured that, in the worst event, it would certainly pay. I often expressed that belief; and I can see no possible cause to alter my mind. I am not as yet in the main at all disappointed. I have been a good deal disappointed as it regards myself in not keeping up my own plans; but I now feel entirely reconciled to that even; for God's plan was infinitely better, no doubt, or I should have kept to my own. Had Samson kept to his determination of not telling Delilah wherein his great strength lay, he would probably have never overturned the house. I did not tell Delilah, but I was induced to act very contrary to my better judgment; and I have lost my two noble boys, and other friends, if not my two eyes."

FRENCH VIEWS OF IRELAND.—The Paris correspondent of the *Globe* says:—"The *Charivari* of Wednesday embodies the true feeling now general in France as to the puny attempt in some Irish localities to cry down the glorious efforts of the Italian people in their struggle for emancipation. The Paris humorist, whose fun is conspicuous for sense as all good fun must be, says that 'henceforth all sympathy for Irish 'grievances' is at an end among the great Liberal body all over Europe. Their howl will only meet derision—they now come out as abettors of the sorriest and most wretched tyranny, and it, as they complain, they are treated at home like cattle, it is a lot they richly deserve, for Byron says' (the words are not his but Moore's):—

"Down, down to the dust with them, slaves that they are!"

THE ITALIAN QUESTION.

THE CONGRESS.

The whole of the letters of acceptance in reply to the invitations to the European Congress had been received in Paris on Monday last. The Austrian Plenipotentiary arrived on Wednesday, and was conveyed in state to the Tuileries, where the Emperor received him very cordially.

Spain, it seems, insists on taking part in the Congress, not as a second but as a first rate Power, having two representatives instead of one sitting at the table. For, says she, her territory is twice as large as that of Prussia, and her population is the same—not a very good evidence of her present political condition, one would think. It is supposed that this pretension of Spain has its origin in French advice, for France wants to get strong support against Sardinia. It may, however, be mere inflation on the part of Spain herself, brought on by the military exploits she hopes to achieve in Africa.

The Swiss Confederation, according to the *Constitutionnel*, has asked admission to the forthcoming Congress, on the ground of the old-established relations between Switzerland and Savoy. The Federal Council believes that, in the proposed reorganisation of the States of Central Italy, the provinces of Chablais and Faucigny must be the object of a new consideration.

The *Opinione* of Turin announces that the Government of King Victor Emmanuel has been invited to send a representative to the Congress upon the same conditions and with the same powers as the other Cabinets. The same journal states that the provisional Governments of Central Italy will send delegates to Paris to expound their interests, which, moreover, will find an active defender in the Sardinian Plenipotentiary.

The following is an analysis of Count Rechberg's dispatch, which accompanied the Austrian invitation to the Congress:—

The Zurich Treaty of Peace, which the Congress is to crown, modifies some essential regulations in the Treaties of Vienna, and it is for this reason that Austria has particularly insisted on the convocation to the Congress of all the Powers that signed the Act of 1815.

The justice of this demand has been also acknowledged by France, and it may be hoped that the other Governments will see the matter from the same point of view. If it appears indispensable to admit also the Plenipotentiaries of Rome, Sardinia, and the Two Sicilies, the respect due to the rights of the Princes equally imposes the duty of not discussing subjects affecting questions vital to Sovereigns without hearing their representatives. It would be necessary, then, to summon also the representatives of Tuscany, Parma, and Modena, the instant these countries have returned to a normal situation, which will guarantee their complete independence.

The prosperity of Italy can only be founded durably when that country shall be protected against the incessant attacks directed by the revolutionary spirit against the edifice of social and religious order. For this end institutions will be required which shall strengthen the thrones and at the same time secure the happiness of the peoples.

The re-establishment of the Princes expelled by factions appears the first object to be attained, as likewise the simultaneous re-establishment of the Pope's authority over the insurgent provinces. Afterwards a Confederation, devised after the model of the Germanic Confederation, might be founded, the organisation of which would be a matter of internal arrangement by the Italian Powers.

Identical principles would animate all the Powers which have at heart the protection of order against threatening dangers. On the other hand, it would be desirable to discard from the deliberations of the Congress all subjects not bearing on the interests which have just been mooted. An indefinite extension of the attributes of the Congress might easily give rise to complications.

CENTRAL ITALY.

The Tuscan *Moniteur* publishes the conditions of the arrangement concluded at Turin between the representatives of Sardinia and Central Italy on the subject of the Regency of M. Buoncompagni. The latter receives the title of "Governor-General of the League of the Provinces of Central Italy," but his office is reduced to "maintaining good relations between the said provinces, and between them and the Government of Victor Emmanuel." He will "transmit to the Commander-General of the Forces of the League the orders concerning all the military arrangements of the united provinces, and he will have the direction of the collective diplomatic negotiations whenever this is consented to by the particular Governments, who will still maintain their relations with foreign Governments by means of direct agents, in order to realise the object of union with the constitutional kingdom of King Victor Emmanuel."

From Florence we learn that the Provisional Government has, by allowing a discount, collected in advance the land tax for 1860, amounting to between six and seven millions of francs.

A great deal of intrigue is described as going on just now between the men who of late acquired power in the Duchies and Legations. Influences, to all appearance, are already at work to gain the Central Italians over for the establishment of a separate kingdom under the Duke of Leuchtenberg, though, in the name of Baron Ricasoli, it is expressly denied that he has anything to do with it.

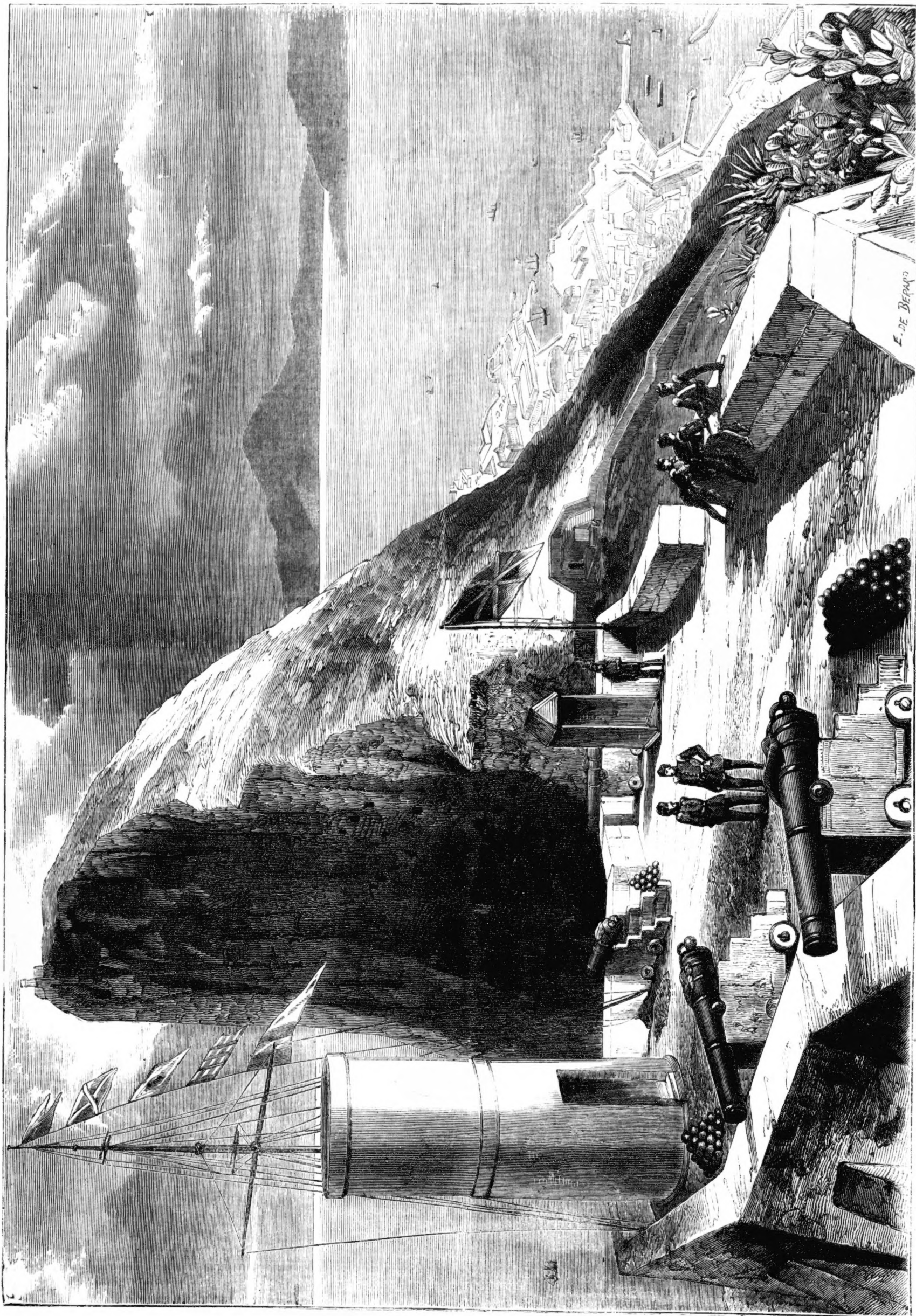
A BAD BEGINNING.—A man in New York, calling himself John Morse, was united in the bonds of marriage with a woman, the clergyman of St. Joseph's Church performing the ceremony. The bridegroom paid therefore five dollars, and was about to leave, when two detectives appeared to arrest him for passing counterfeit money. The minister examined his five-dollar note; it, too, was bad. The newly-married man was locked up—alone. The young wife stated that she did not know his name or his business! The truth of her statement was doubted. The man said that he had been a thief. He was believed.

FREE NEGRO SETTLEMENTS IN CANADA.—A kind of New Liberia has arisen in Canada, in which a large number of the negro race are finding a refuge from the Slave States in America. One of the settlements is New Windsor, in Western Canada, and in this locality a church has been organised for the coloured emigrants, the Rev. Mr. Troy, a gentleman of colour, being the minister. Another free coloured society is established at Toronto, presided over by the Rev. Wm. Mitchell. Messrs. Troy and Mitchell are in this country, soliciting the aid of the religious and benevolent public for the erection of chapels and schools. They are recommended by Chief Justice Robinson, of Toronto.

A DUEL.—The Marquis de Gallifet, just married, in the heyday of the honeymoon, took his wife to the Paris Opera, to see "Herculeanum." Between the second and third act of the opera the Marquis de Lauriston, a gentleman far from the heyday of his own honeymoon, was observed to direct his opera-glass with persevering admiration upon the young bride. This became at last displeasing to the bridegroom, who beckoned the offender to come out of his box into the lobby, and there requested him to desist. M. de Lauriston replied by what the French call a *voie de fait*; and soon the pugilistic encounter became serious enough to warrant the interference of the public. Next morning a fight with swords, more serious still, took place between the gentlemen. Both were wounded—M. de Gallifet in two places, but neither wounds dangerous—and both parties returned to Paris in a pitiable condition, the ground being so slippery from the rain and thaw that the combatants had rolled in the mud more than once. The Emperor, Prince Jerome, and Prince Napoleon have sent official inquiries after each of the wounded heroes.

PATRIAL GOVERNMENT.—A very curious paper is said to have been issued by the French Government to its chief spies in the provinces. It is in the shape of a circular, issued officially to some one not named in each of the departments, and contains a series of inquiries, of which the following are specimens:—What is the political spirit of the department? What are the political tendencies of the workmen, the farmers, the traders, and other classes? What is the numerical force of each of these parties—the Orleanist party, the Legitimist, the Republican, the Socialist, the Imperialist? Mention the names of the leading persons in each principal town, specifying the political party to which they belong. What are the names of the men of action belonging to each party? What is the force of the Imperialist party? and mention the families that are noted for their traditional attachment to the Imperial Government. Mention the names of such devoted, worthy, and honourable men as deserve to receive favour from the Government, and which of them are capable of discharging high public functions? According to the various classes of society, what opinions are held on the proceedings of Government? What do they praise, blame, or criticise? And, in particular, what is their opinion with respect to Parliamentary freedom, liberty of the press, and trial by jury?

THE NIGHTINGALE FUND.—In answer to a question as to what had become of the "Nightingale Fund," for the formation of an institute for nurses, Mr. S. C. Hall informs us that the scheme is postponed "in the hope that Miss Nightingale's restoration to health may permit her to direct and superintend such institution. The sum collected (invested in Exchequer Bills), with the interest accumulated since the committee ceased its labours, amounts to about £48,000."



GIBRALTAR FROM THE SIGNAL TOWER.

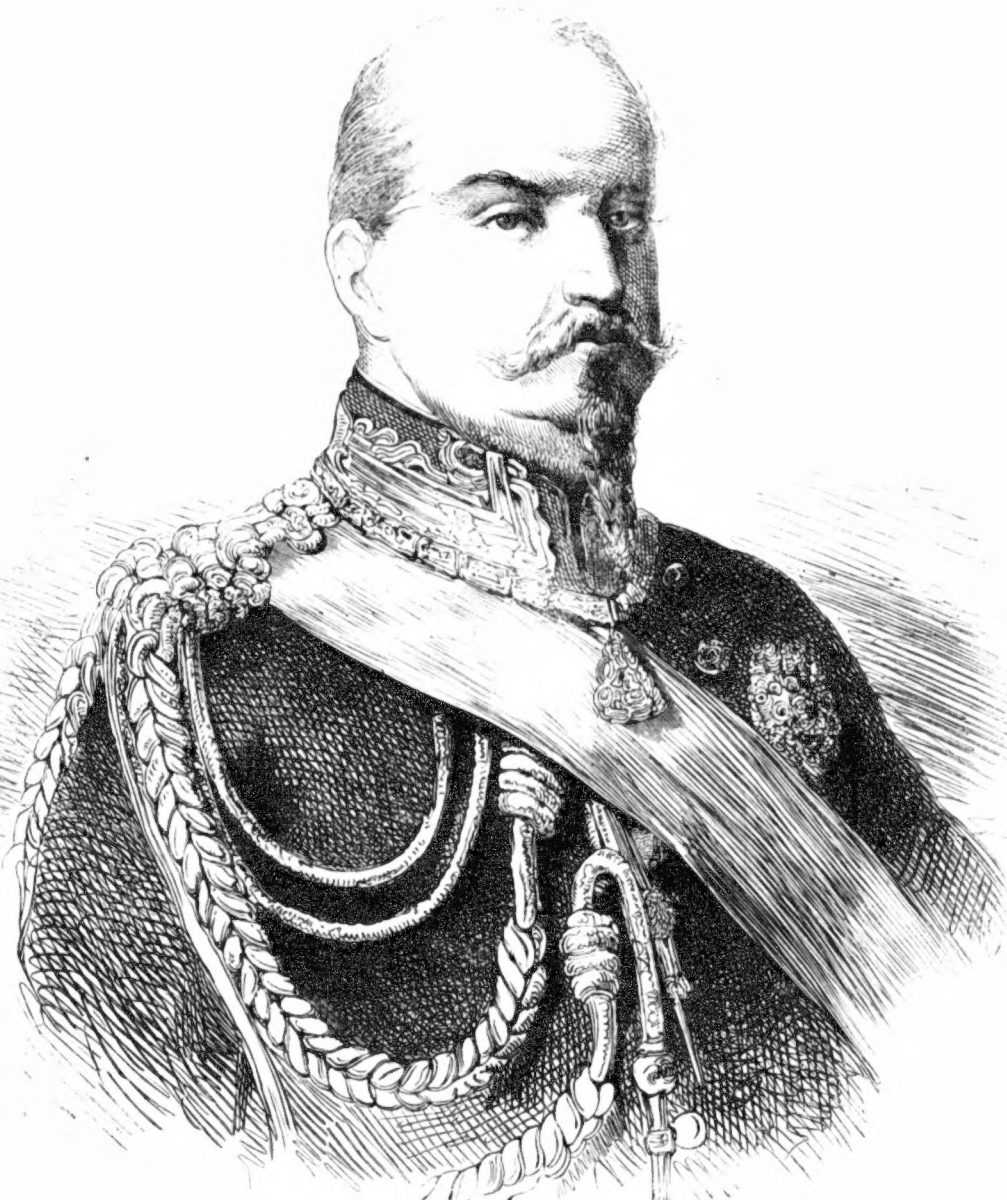
THE SIGNAL-TOWER AT GIBRALTAR.

THE Signal-tower at Gibraltar is reached by an excellent road of moderate acclivity, made in 1748 by order of General Bland. A nobleman, accidentally in Gibraltar not many years ago, drove up a light carriage drawn by two mules with apparent ease, and in a short space of time. When the rock was in the possession of the Spaniards a watch-tower and signal-station was kept at this place, called "The Hacho," to observe the entrance of shipping from either sea. During the late war it was of the greatest utility, and it is scarcely less valuable at the present day for communicating intelligence to the Governor and the local authorities.

If from the north point of the rock is displayed a splendid and magnificent view, that from the signal-house is not less deserving of notice. The observer, looking southward, has in front of him another quarter of the globe, with inhabitants of totally different features, habits, language, and religion. He sees a range of the lesser Atlas stretching far away to the eastward and covered with snow long after it has disappeared from the opposite mountains of Europe. Ceuta appears at his feet, and at a glance he views Apes Hill, the bold shore of the Barbary coast, the straits terminating with the Bay of Tangier, whose white town may be descried in clear weather, and the noble Bay of Gibraltar, studded with numerous vessels sailing in all directions—the whole forming a scene as picturesque and beautiful as any the warmest imagination can figure to itself.

WRECK OF THE SCHOONER "ABEL."

On the 4th inst., at 3 a.m., three guns fired from Elizabeth Castle, Jersey, and the red and white pennon, half-mast high, signalled from the fort, announced a ship in distress. The pier at St. Helier's was soon crowded by the inhabitants, anxious to render assistance in case of need. The ship in distress proved to be the schooner *Abel*, Captain Lamb, of Fowey, from Dantzic, laden with wheat. It appears she came to anchor in Jersey roads on the previous morning, waiting for a pilot. On the pilot coming on board the ship was got under way by slipping the anchor and chain, and her head, with a favourable wind, was turned to the entrance of the harbour of St. Helier's. Owing to the rudder-chains being out of order she did not answer her helm, and ran right on the rocks, beating over several sunken ones, and finally settling on one to the westward of Elizabeth Castle (the scene of the disaster was illustrated in the Pilot and Beacon Light subject last week), where she is likely to become a total wreck. The crew, seven in number, together with the pilot, took to their boat, and landed safely in the harbour. A very



EUGENE EMMANUEL, PRINCE OF CARIGNAN.

heavy sea was making breaches over the ship, causing her to reel to and fro rapidly. We are given to understand the cargo was insured at Lloyd's, but the vessel (the captain was also owner) was not insured.

PRINCE DE CARIGNAN.

THE family of Carignan is a collateral branch of the reigning house of Savoy. The present Prince de Carignan was born on the 14th of April, 1816. In early youth he became the close friend of the late Prince Charles Albert. He served in the army, and also devoted much attention to the rising navy of Sardinia. He received the title of Prince

of Savoy-Carignan by a Royal decree of the 28th of April, 1824, and he obtained the rank of Admiral and Commander of all the National Guards of the kingdom of Sardinia.

His only sister, Princess Maria Victoria, was married on the 15th of May, 1837, to Count Leopold of Syracuse, Prince of the Two Sicilies. The Prince de Carignan himself was betrothed to Donna Januaria, the eldest daughter of the Emperor Don Pedro of Brazil, but the negotiations between the Courts of Turin and Brazil were broken off in consequence of the contingent claim of the Princess Januaria to inherit the Imperial throne, which rendered it necessary that she should marry a Prince of Imperial rank. In the following year (1843) a proposal was made by the Prince de Carignan for the hand of the Archduchess Maria Carolina, daughter of the Archduke Rainer, vice-King of Italy. The arrangements for the marriage were already completed, when all was set aside by the sudden death of the Archduchess, on the 22nd of January, 1844. This event had such an effect on the Prince de Carignan that he has remained unmarried.

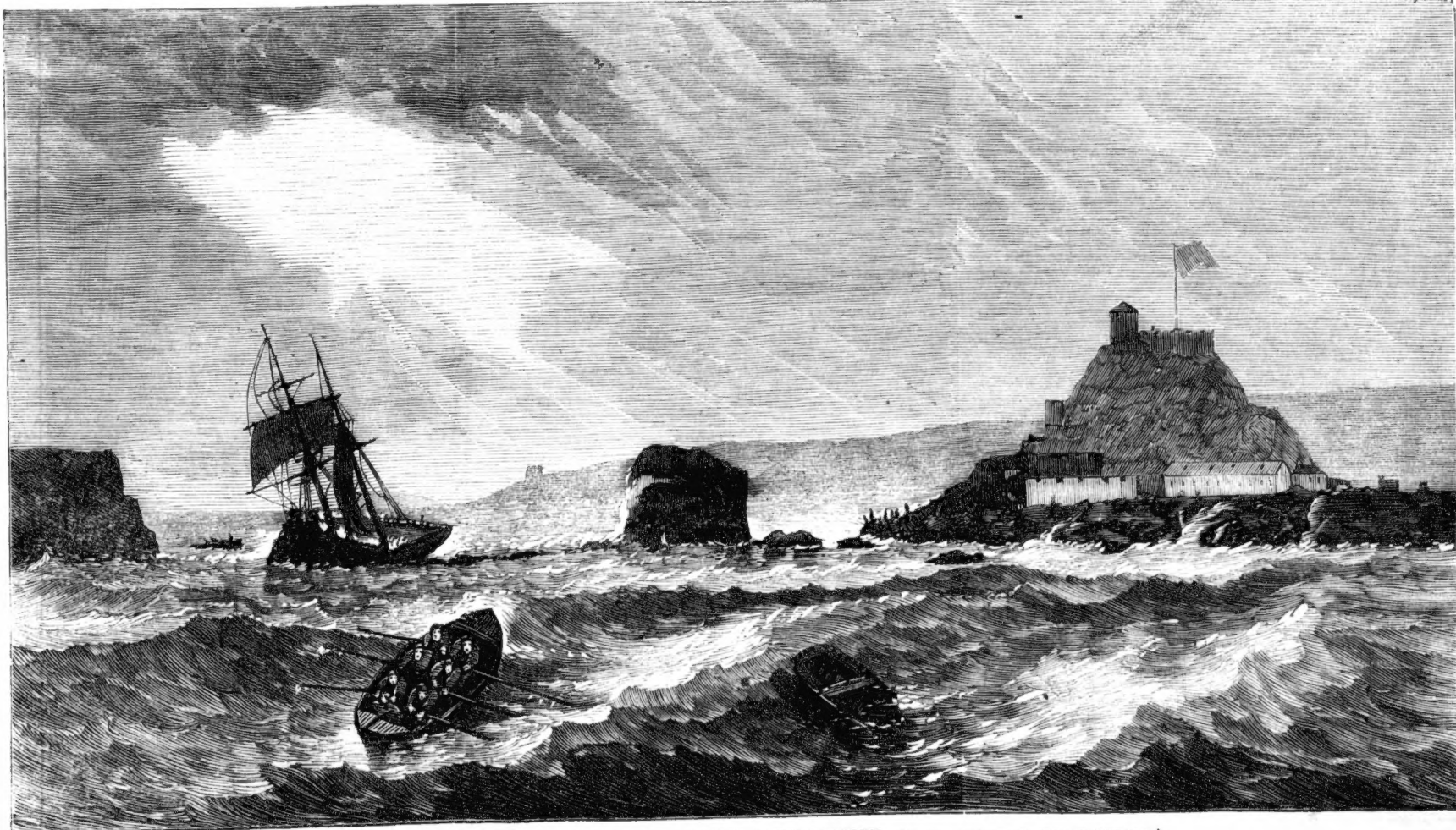
His retired life caused him to be but little known until the events of 1848 placed him in the foreground of the political scene. The King of Sardinia, with his son, Victor Emmanuel, finding it necessary to take the field at the head of the army, consigned the reins of government to the Prince de Carignan, who discharged the difficult duties of Regent in the most satisfactory way. The present King has evinced for the Prince no less a degree of confidence and regard. In 1855, when his Majesty was disabled by a serious fit of illness, the Prince de Carignan was a second time intrusted with the government of the State; and for the third time he was appointed Regent whilst the King took part in the war of the present year.

After the negotiations of Villafranca, the States of Central Italy, as a mark of their respect and fidelity to the King of Sardinia, appointed the Prince de Carignan to discharge the functions of Viceroy for that

Monarch. This resolution was adopted at the beginning of October last in an assembly at which Farini, Minghetti, Cipriani, and Ricasole were present.

Political considerations of the weightiest kind have prevented the Prince from accepting the honourable post proposed for him.

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MRS. PIOZZI, with a collection of her interesting letters, has, since her death in 1821, remained in the possession of the family of her late physician, Sir James Fellows. These papers have now come into the hands of Messrs. Longman and Co., and will shortly be published.



WRECK OF THE SCHOONER "ABEL," OFF ELIZABETH CASTLE, JERSEY.—(FROM A SKETCH BY CHARLES MERRILL.)

M. GIRARDIN'S BROCHURE.

M. EMILE GIRARDIN'S pamphlet, "L'Empereur Napoleon III. et l'Europe," has at last appeared. The impression was seized at the printer's on the 13th of November, the day before its intended publication, on the warrant of the Juge d'Instruction. The legality of this premature seizure was contested on the ground that the alleged offence to the person of the Emperor, and the excitement of hatred, &c., to his Government, was not completed by publicity, as required by the 128th clause of the Code of Criminal Instruction. The point was allowed, the brochure was restored to the printer, and was forthwith published, with the exception of some passages which might be construed into offence to the Emperor; these were omitted.

In this production the ex-journalist affirms that nothing decisive has as yet been done on any one of the great questions which diplomacy and the sword have tried to resolve. He declares that of the five great Powers of Europe France is the only country that has no foreign policy worth talking of:—

Externally England has a policy—to find markets for her produce. Externally Austria has a policy—to draw closer together and augment her bundle of States. Externally Prussia has a policy—to counterbalance Austria. Externally Russia has a policy—to execute the testament of Peter the Great. If the author of this work is in error, let his contraditors inform him what is the external policy of France.

He asserts that even the first Napoleon had no policy; and, after sketching the vast extent and power of the first Empire, observes:—

To have a policy is to have an object in view. Not to have this object is not to have a policy. Napoleon I. conquered merely to conquer. Had not this wandering Jew of victory been stopped by the burning of Moscow and the premature severity of the season, he would have continued to march till he encountered a defeat or death. If he had had an external policy which he could explain to himself he would not have concealed it; on the contrary, he would have disclosed it in one of those memorable bulletins, in order to reassure those whom the unknown frightened, and when it would have closely bound to his cause kings and peoples, which the community of interests would have drawn to him.

He then enters on the more delicate inquiry as to whether Napoleon III. has, after all, an external policy:—

The Emperor Napoleon III. has laudable political inspirations; it would be unjust to deny the fact. But the policy into which he has entered is a labyrinth from which it is very difficult to issue without a conducting thread.

He sets in proof of this the two expeditions to Italy—1849 and 1859—the one being the contradiction of the other. He condemns the Crimean war, which, though glorious for the French arms, was a political fault, because Napoleon III. was not the man who should defend the map of Europe as arranged by the treaties of 1815; "and," he asks, "did it become France to weaken the maritime power of Russia and arrest her development?"

Is the maritime equilibrium less important than the territorial? Is England, whose interests we serve when we weaken a naval Power, an ally to be relied upon? Admitting that she is, of what use is she to us? What service did she render us in the Italian expedition, when, nevertheless, all the sympathies of the old and natural ally of Austria should be for the deliverance of the Italians? Do I mean that France ought to treat England as an enemy? No! With England the conduct of France ought to be this:—No rash defiance, no offensive manner of proceeding, but no concessions without reciprocity—no weakness to encourage her audacious promptness of encroachment; no humility to arm her pride, which is easily exalted. England, like a river which always tends to overflow, requires to be ever kept within bounds. Every concession without an equivalent is a danger: it is a fault, for England stems only those whom she insults—that is to say, those who resist her. Do I mean that France ought to render serious the laughable apprehensions of England? No! Even if a landing on her coast succeeded it would prove nothing except in favour of steam navigation, would lead to nothing except the necessity of a re-embarkation. Do I mean that France ought to give to London a spectacle equal to that which England gave to Copenhagen in 1807? No! One act of barbarity does not justify another.

After showing the uselessness of all wars which are not founded on legitimate defence or reparation of a defeat, and of all armed interventions, he says:—

Had not France, still so imperfectly cultivated, a better employment for the arms and lives of her children? France, which has so long been without roads, highways, canals, railways—France, which even now in 1859 has only the half of the railways she ought to have to profit by her minerals and her coal-mines—has she not had since 1823 better employment for her money and her loans?

M. de Girardin suggests the manner in which France might occupy—industrially, commercially, and as a maritime Power—a rank equal to what she occupies territorially in Europe:—

Does Russia wish to possess herself of the Straits of the Dardanelles? France is the ally of England against Russia, but on condition that England shall neutralise the Straits of Gibraltar; as also Babelmandeb, menaced by Aden; restore to Turkey Perim, which is the key to the Red Sea; disarm Corfu, which is the key to the Adriatic; dismantle Malta, which she took from us, and which she was bound to give back to us by the Treaty of Amiens.

Does England persist in keeping as maritime fortresses Gibraltar, which she stole from Spain; Malta and Corfu, which she took from France; Aden, which she appropriated to herself, and which she has made the Gibraltar of the Red Sea; Perim, which she keeps without regard to the claims and the protests of Turkey? Then France is the ally of Russia against England, but on condition that all the Straits, to begin with the Dardanelles, shall be neutralised; that all the seas shall be neutral; that they shall all be free; and that there shall not be a single one barred by cannon.

If England does not do all this, M. de Girardin declares she only represents maritime feudalism instead of civilisation. "But, then," he adds,

Let not England be astonished or complain if France and Russia combine to press her on the throat. England's neck is a long one. If she lifts her head in Europe she stretches her neck into Asia. There is nothing but to bind her hands. The piercing of the Isthmus of Suez is the defect in the British cuirass. The Emperor Napoleon III. appears to have seen it, a little late perhaps; but he has seen it, no matter. In fact, the moment France and Russia understand each other and are agreed the Dardanelles are in their hands. Certain to be followed by the United States, they may then present themselves to England and say, "Straits for Straits! The Strait of Gibraltar for that of the Dardanelles." If England be deaf to this proposition, founded on equity, supported by liberty, and dovetailed in civilisation, France says to Spain, "Fear nothing, count upon me; take and keep Tangier."

Instead of a special Congress on the Italian question, which is only loss of time, Girardin suggests that the Emperor Napoleon should summon a general Congress, "at which all the Powers of Europe, great, middling, and little," should settle the question of the East, Italy, and Poland by means of the neutralisation of the Straits, the abolition of recruiting, the suppression of custom-houses—those reforms which must lead to unity in money, in weights and measures, and in imposts." Constantinople should be the seat of this great Congress, "in order that each Plenipotentiary sent to it should be far enough from his country to lose sight of petty private interests," and clearly see "the advantages of neutralising every strait and every sea, of piercing every isthmus, of the free navigation of every river, and spontaneously recognise that the time of conquests has passed away, never to return," &c.

M. de Girardin enforces this view of affairs by reasons too numerous to mention, and he ascends by a graduated scale to the wonderful results which would follow from the single neutralisation of the Straits:—

The strange spectacle (he continues) which Europe now presents to the eye of the impartial observer is that of Governments dictating to other Governments what they ought to do, and, consequently, exposing themselves to be asked whether they will themselves set the good example. Is England justified in raising her voice in favour of Italy against the domination of Austria, the oppression of the King of Naples, or the temporal authority of the Pope? In their turn, have not the Pope, Austria, and the King of Naples an equal right to raise their voices in favour of Ireland and of India? Is common to the bar Great Britain, as culpable of the most monstrous abuses, and as stained with the most infamous cruelties? To ask her, in the name of civilisation, for an account of the 3,000,000 of Irish dead of famine [this beats Mr. Bernard Sheehan and the speakers at the Cork meeting last week], and of countless Indians torn to pieces, without defence, by cannon ignominiously converted into an instrument of punishment? When this accusation, with all the proofs furnished by the British Parliament itself, is made before the Congress against England, what can she answer to the Governments she has incriminated? Why, keep silent and hold down her head.

M. Girardin concludes his pamphlet thus:—

From whatever cause it arises France is in one of those decisive moments when she has only to wish to be able to do; but what would be for her interest merely, or for the general interest of a nation, would be for the interest of general civilisation. Stipulating in the name of civilisation—that is, in the name of all peoples—the more France should demand the less she would encounter resistance. Demanding only what is just, she would never demand too much. Let her, then, prepare herself to demand from the coming Congress what the Congress cannot refuse her without putting all the peoples of Europe on the side of the Emperor Napoleon III.

And so ends M. Emile Girardin.

BRITISH INTERESTS IN MEXICO.

THE following address, which has been signed by almost every firm trading with Mexico, has just been presented to Lord John Russell:—

The undersigned merchants of the city of London, being deeply interested in the trade between this country and Mexico, beg to call your Lordship's attention to the very disagreeable position of those who are connected with the trade of that country, believing your Lordship may be able in some way to afford them relief from the pressure and difficulties they are encountering.

For many years past the English have been encouraged, in consequence of the policy adopted by the British Government, to increase their trade with Mexico. They have appointed agencies there, and have also invested considerable sums of money in mines and other industrial establishments. The civil war which is now unfortunately raging in that country has not only put a stop to all business, but has prevented the English agents from sending home the money due to their employers. These agents have also been put under very heavy contributions, and, as they are the chief persons capable of paying taxes, the Mexican Government is not very scrupulous in levying new ones as soon as they have been compelled to pay the old taxes. The inconvenience felt from the impossibility of remitting home the money lying in Mexico is very great; and your Lordship is respectfully requested to give our representatives instructions to concert with the English as to the best way of improving their position and of protecting their property, and, if necessary, to consult and act with the representatives of other Powers in order to carry out their views. It is also very desirable that our Minister or representative should endeavour to obtain some change in the oppressive manner in which the Government raises money, and should protest against the arbitrary acts of the Government in imposing taxes which fall more heavily on foreigners than on the Mexicans. And, lastly, that the party which is in office and in possession of the Government, and to whom the British Minister or representative is accredited, out to be considered the Government *de facto*. Every Government, therefore ought to respect the acts referring to British subjects, and the contracts made with them by a preceding Government to which our representative had been accredited.

We made reference, last week, to a reported collision between a British ship of war and the Mexican authorities. We should judge that the story has been exaggerated. What we now hear is that the British Consul at Mazatlan, who had been imprisoned by the Liberal authorities there for refusing to pay them a duty on his share of a shipment of specie, effected under the auspices of General Marquez, and on which the duty had been paid to him, has been released through the interference of a British ship of war, which blockaded the port until this concession was made.

IRELAND.

THE CONGRESS, THE POPE, AND THE EMPEROR.—The *Freeman's Journal* publishes a monster report of a pro-Papal demonstration in Kilmarnock on Tuesday week. It appears to have been the most influential in point of numbers and respectability of any of the meetings that have yet been held. The speech of a Roman Catholic Bishop (Dr. Moriarty) made a great impression. In the course of his delivery the Bishop made a passing allusion to the receipt of a letter from Rome, written by a distinguished ecclesiastic, which conveys in substance the sentiments attributed to the Pope in an autograph communication which was erroneously said to have been received by a high authority in Ireland. The letter of the "distinguished ecclesiastic" said:—"The Emperor will do nothing to assist in quelling the revolution he has excited. He will allow no intervention in favour of the Pope; and he allows the intervention of all the Mazzinians, Red Republicans, and Socialists of Europe to keep up and consummate this wicked revolt against the Head of the Church."—At a meeting at Drogheda Dr. Dixon, the Roman Catholic Prelate, denounced the French Emperor for suppressing the pastoral of the French Bishops. "If," said Dr. Dixon, "he shall, in the Congress, make reparation for what he has done we shall applaud him; but if, on the contrary, he shall rise from the Congress after putting the seal of that body to a robbery the most sacrilegious and atrocious history will have to record—the alienation of the Romagna from the Papal throne—it does not require the spirit of prophecy, but only a glance at the past, to say that from that day it will be seen that the star of Napoleon is no longer in the ascendant. It will be seen that the meridian of his reign is past—that he is a falling man. It will not be immediately seen, but on the first occasion when he shall attempt to play the great Emperor his position will be manifested. There will be no more Solferinos or Magentas—it will be either a Waterloo or a prelude to it."—Demonstrations in favour of the Pope have also been held in Charleville, Cloyne, and Aghaballoge, in the county of Cork, and Clonmel and Kilmarnock, in the county of Wicklow.

TRAKSON.—The *Cork Examiner* reports the following remarks made by a Father Fiddling, at a chapel meeting at Cloyne, on Sunday last:—"We are told in Ireland that we are not loyal; he told them that the Irish were loyal—were foolishly loyal. They are too loyal for no reason, no object, no protection. (Cheering.) Were the Irish loyal in the Crimea, or in China, or in India? They shed their blood like brave soldiers there; and was it too much to say they were then too loyal? There was a report now—that it was to be feared was too true—that England may soon want soldiers to protect her, and that she cannot get them. (A voice—"Thank God!") There was a report abroad at present—whether it was true or not he could not say—that the English were secretly—they dare not do it openly—arming the Orangemen of the north to keep down the Catholics of the south, lest they might rise in the midst of England's troubles and give her annoyance. (A voice—"Well, we're strong enough.") That showed the spirit of the Government. If that rumour be true, let the Orangemen come; he asserted they would meet their army and defend themselves. (Great cheering.) And he said in the face of any Government they would not allow it to place the charge of the Irish in the hands of Orangemen, to come to the south for blood and slaughter. (A voice—"Let them try.") The Government knew very well that the people of this country hesitated very little, or would not care much, if Napoleon III. would step into this country at any moment. The Government knew very well that the Government of France would be as acceptable to the Irish people as the present Government. (A voice—"That's a fact.") We are loyal, and only too loyal; but we would be more loyal if protected. As to the peace of the country, how can the people be expected to protect it? When the poor man is turned out of his house and holding, and sees his wife and children wretched, what can you expect from any one in his miserable state? Putting myself in such a position, if I saw this, what would I do? I declare I do not know what I would do. When the wild spirit of revenge prompts a man, what will satiate it? It cries out, 'Give me justice, or I will justify myself.' (Great cheering.)"

SCOTLAND.

BIBLE-SELLING IN THE STREETS.—On Saturday morning William Allen Hunter, residing in Edinburgh, who has for some time been in the practice of vending Bibles from a barrow on the streets, was brought before Sheriff Jameson, at the Police Court, charged with obstructing the public thoroughfare. From the evidence for the complainant it appeared that on a certain day the defendant had placed his barrow near the General Post pillar-box, and refused to remove it when requested by the complainant, who is "head constable" in the ward. For the defendant, on the other hand, it was alleged that his barrow was four yards distant from the pillar letter-box, and that he used no abusive language to the complainant when requested to remove. The Sheriff cautioned the defendant to avoid in future placing himself near the Post Office pillar, and recommended him to show in future proper respect when spoken to by any person in the official position of the complainant.

THE PROVINCES.

A TESTIMONIAL FROM THE QUEEN.—On the occasion of her Majesty's visit to Penrhyn Castle the members of the Penrhyn Choral Society sang before the Royal family. The Queen was so pleased with them that she resolved to present a silver cup to the society through Mr. Pennant, of Penrhyn Castle. Accordingly, at a numerous meeting held on Wednesday week, the presentation took place. The testimonial cup is of silver, weighs ninety ounces, and bears the following inscription:—"Presented by her Majesty the Queen to the Choral Society of the Penrhyn Slate Quarries, which sang before her Majesty on Sunday evening, the 19th of October, 1859." Sir Charles Phipps, in a letter to Mr. Pennant, says:—"Her Majesty and the Prince Consort would be glad if this cup, whilst it was considered as a mark of the satisfaction with which they heard the very creditable performance of the numerous body who sang before them, might also be looked upon as testifying the approval with which her Majesty and his Royal Highness regard the cultivation by all under your employment

and in your neighbourhood of so laudable and humanising a taste, and of their wish that all should unite in encouraging a mode of employing their leisure hours so likely to prove beneficial to their social and moral condition."

A SLIP BETWEEN THE CUP AND THE LIP.—Henry Greaves and Mary Mitchell, of Halifax, had arranged to be married at the parish church. On their way the bride found fault with her intended husband for not having his shoes clean! They still pursued the journey, however, but so shocked was the lady on entering the church in company with the dirty boots that she renewed her complaints, and, setting at defiance all remonstrances, left the church, and refused to be married. Dinner had been provided for sixteen, and tea for twenty. Now, the proportion of expense to be borne by each party formed a further topic of dispute. The bridegroom refused to pay anything unless he had the ring returned, and then declined to contribute more than one-half.

ALLEGED EMBEZZLEMENT BY A DISSENTING PREACHER.—A man named William Chick, who used to do duty as a dissenting preacher, was committed to trial by the magistrates at Hereford on Monday on a charge of felony. He was in a position of trust in the shop of Mr. Chandler, a boot-manufacturer. Being suspected, an investigation was made on the first day of the present month, which led to the disclosure that Chick was between £200 and £300 deficient. In explanation, he gave Mr. Chandler a long list of persons who he said had had goods from the shop without paying for them; but, when inquiries were instituted into the correctness of those presumed outstanding accounts, it was found that the statement was false. Prisoner made no defence, and was admitted to bail, himself in £200 and two sureties in £100 each.

PAPAL SYMPATHY MEETING AT HALIFAX.—On Monday evening the Roman Catholics of Halifax assembled in considerable force at the Oddfellows' Hall, to express their sympathy with the Pope in the present disturbed state of Southern Italy. It was intended by the promoters of the meeting to bring together only Roman Catholics, and this intention was adhered to as far as possible, but a large number of Protestants contrived to gain admission, and the proceedings throughout were of a very uproarious character. Two resolutions, expressing sympathy with the Pope, and asserting that the temporal power of the Pope was necessary to the welfare of the Catholic Church, were declared to be carried. Mr. Wavell, Town Clerk, then addressed the meeting, observing that it should be distinctly understood that the expression of opinion embodied in the resolutions was that of the Catholics of Halifax only, and not of the inhabitants at large.

THE PROTESTANTS OF MALTA.—The Earl of Shaftesbury addressed a meeting in Manchester, on Friday week, in aid of the funds of the Malta Protestant College. His Lordship advocated the claims of the college on commercial as well as religious grounds, and held it to be the duty of our country to support this institution as Englishmen, as Christians, and as men. Sir John Pennell, Canon Stowell, and the Rev. J. Bardsley, also addressed the meeting.

YORKSHIRE.—At the Bradford Borough Court, on Monday, an old man, named Richard Bowling, a farmer, was charged with obtaining a horse by false pretences. Joseph Brummit, a horse-dealer, was at Bradford fair on Friday, offering a horse belonging to one Martin Howard for sale. Bowling bought it at the price of £6, paying a flash note of the "Bank of Elegance," and a gilt medal meant to represent a sovereign. Brummit, who could not read, accepted both without question, and did not discover the trick played upon him till he went to the owner of the horse, who was in the neighbourhood. Search was made for Bowling, but he could not be found. He was seen in Bradford next day, and given into custody. He had resold the horse for £5. The prisoner's story is, that while in the cattle fair two strange men prevailed upon him to go with them to a public-house, and that while there they induced him to produce his money, which consisted of thirteen sovereigns and a £5 note. They contrived, as he said, to exchange his genuine money for several flash notes and ten or a dozen gilt medals. He did not discover anything amiss till after he had paid for the horse. Testimony was given that Bowling was a respectable man. He was remanded.

CONVICTION OF A SOLICITOR FOR FORGERY.—At the Winchester Assizes, on Friday week, before Mr. Baron Channell, Edmund Wardrop, solicitor, of Midhurst, aged forty-five, pleaded guilty to two indictments charging him with forging and uttering a promissory note for £275, and another for £350, with intent to defraud, and was sentenced to two years' penal servitude.

THE FOUR BROKERS OF LIVERPOOL.—The Liverpool Law Society, apropos of the letter of the four merchants to the French Emperor, have adopted this resolution:—"That the president be requested to inform her Majesty's Attorney-General that in case it be the intention of her Majesty's Government to take any proceedings against the four Liverpool merchants who lately made a communication to the Emperor of the French, this committee will be happy to render the Attorney-General any assistance in its power."

MR. MASON JONES IN DUNGEON.—Our readers are aware (says the *Northern Daily Express*) that on the evenings of Monday and Tuesday last Mr. Mason Jones favoured the Newcastle public with his views of two important historical characters—Sheridan and Byron. It appears that this gentleman is highly offended with the people of Newcastle for not turning out in thousands instead of hundreds; and last night he vented his chagrin by treating an audience, as large and as respectable as those we have referred to, in a manner which we must take the liberty to characterise as highly disrespectful. An oration on "Daniel O'Connell" was advertised for eight o'clock, and at that hour the lecture-room was about two-thirds filled by an audience which any man with a moderate idea of his qualifications might have been pleased to see before him. Shortly after eight Mr. Jones appeared, and, after intimating that he had been quite disappointed by the smallness of his audiences on the former occasions, remarked that his orations must surely either be too good or not good enough for the Newcastle public. However that might be, it was killing work to lecture to empty benches; and, as the audience before him showed no improvement on those of Monday and Tuesday evenings, he begged respectfully to decline lecturing. He then intimated that those present should have their money returned, and abruptly left the room amid a storm of hisses.

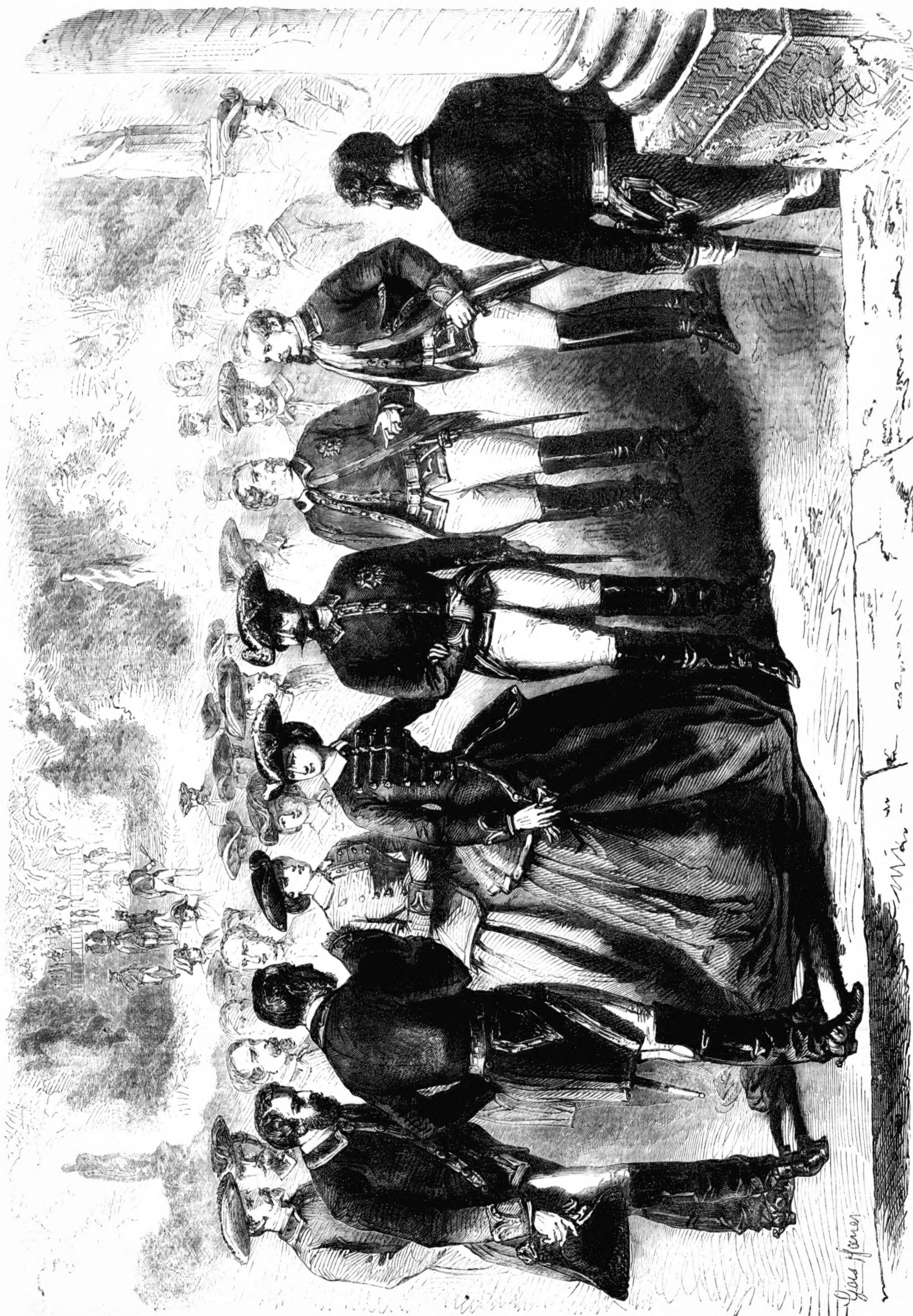
OPPOSITION TO THE RIFLE CORPS MOVEMENT AT ROCHEDALE.—A meeting convened by requisition to the Mayor was held on Friday week in the public hall, Rochdale, to consider the propriety of establishing a publicly recognised rifle corps. The Mayor, Mr. Thomas Ashworth, occupied the chair. Dr. Molesworth moved the first resolution: "That this meeting cordially approves of the establishment of volunteer rifle corps." Mr. John Ashworth moved an amendment:—"That, in the opinion of this meeting, the rifle corps movement is the result of a groundless panic, which has taken the foolish and dangerous form of a mania, and, as experience has often proved that time for reflection is the best antidote for panic and mania, the question of forming a Rochdale rifle corps be deferred for the present." Mr. Edward Taylor asked if in case of invasion the rifle corps would be compelled to meet the enemy, or allowed to retire! After some discussion the amendment was carried.

TORTURE.—A man and woman, named Defert, and described as proprietaries, were tried at Rheims lately for cruelty to their eldest daughter, a girl of seventeen. It was proved that the poor girl had been stripped and beaten with a martinet (cat-o-nine-tails) regularly three times a day for weeks; that she had been lashed to a table, and red-hot coals applied to her person; the wounds being dressed by her mother next day with nitric acid! On another occasion aquafortis was used. While the poor creature was a mass of bruises and sores, thus inflicted, she was made to sleep in a deal box, provided with a lid, about a yard and a half long and half a yard broad. A thin litter of straw was the substitute for a mattress, and with the straw were mixed thistles and nettles. The lid was fastened down upon her, leaving a narrow aperture for air, and she was kept there for days together. The excuse for this cruelty was that she was suspected of over-familiarity with one of the farm-servants. Both husband and wife were sentenced to hard labour for life.

THE TREATY BETWEEN AMERICA AND CHINA.—The Washington correspondent of the *New York Tribune* says of the American and Chinese treaty:—"The European press, especially the British, having, with a sort of malicious pride and jealousy, attempted to depreciate and ridicule the position of Mr. Ward, our Minister to China, and the results of his labours, it is gratifying to be able to inform you that the treaty negotiated by Mr. Reed now in the State Department is quite satisfactory to our Government; and, indeed, instead of having to rest upon the most favoured-nation clause, and consequently upon the ratification of the English and French treaties, for any advantages of enlarged intercourse, as has been asserted by a malignant foreign press, we have obtained all we could desire in the body of the treaty, fully set forth in a rather lengthy document. Besides, in the receipt of the Emperor of China which accompanies the treaty, in which he ordered the great seal of the empire to be attached, and the exchange of the treaties, is expressed the most friendly language towards our country and Government. It is dignified and well expressed, entirely divested of that extravagant hyperbole which we consider characteristic of the Chinese. No American or English statesman could have set forth the reasons for ordering an exchange of treaties with more propriety, or in a clearer manner. The stamp of good faith and directness of purpose is on its face. In this receipt the conduct of the English at the Peking and throughout is set forth by way of comparison, placing the conduct of the Americans in juxtaposition, to show his good faith, and why the English and French failed to have their treaties exchanged, and the reason for ordering the exchange of the American treaties."

THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS OF THE FRENCH
RETURNING FROM THE CHASE.

GARIBALDI is said to have met with an accident—not a serious one—while riding a restive horse lately. He is staying at Fin, near Como. There was a report this week that the General had been married lately. The rumor is contradicted.



THE MAJOR AND MISTERS OF THE FRENCH RETURNING FROM THE CHASE. — (FROM A SKETCH BY M. MOULIN.)

John James

THE LAND'S END.

THE Land's End! There is something in the very words that stir us all. It was the name that struck us most, and was best remembered by us as children, when we learnt our geography. It fills the minds of imaginative people with visions of barrenness and solitude, with dreams of some lonely promontory, far away by itself out in the sea—just the sort of place where the last man in England would be most likely to be found waiting for death at the end of the world! It suggests even to the most prosaically-constituted people ideas of tremendous storms, of flakes of foam flying over the land before the wind, of billows in convulsion, of rocks shaken to their centre, of caves where smugglers lurk in ambush, of wrecks and hurricanes, desolation, danger, and death. It awakens curiosity in the most careless; once hear of it, and you long to see it. Tell your friends that you have travelled in Cornwall, and ten thousand chances to one the first question they ask is, "Have you been to the Land's End?"

And yet, strange to say, the spot so singled out and set apart by our imaginations as something remarkable and even unique of its kind is positively and, as a matter of fact, not distinguishable from any part of the coast on either side of it by any local peculiarity whatever. If you desire really and truly to stand on the Land's End itself, you must ask your way to it, or you are in danger of mistaking one of the numerous promontories on your right hand and your left for your actual place of destination.

The stranger may, however, easily discover when he has reached the district of the Land's End by two rather remarkable indications that he will meet on his road. He will observe, at some distance from the coast, an old milestone, marked "1," and will be informed that this is the original first mile in England—as if all measurement of distances began strictly from the west. A little further on he will come to a house, on one wall of which he will see, written in large letters, "This is the first inn in England," and on the other "This is the last inn in England;" as if the genuine, recognised beginning and the end, too, of the island of Great Britain were here, and here only. Having pondered a little on the slightly exclusive view of the attributes of their locality taken by the inhabitants, he will then be led forward about half a mile, will descend some cliffs, will walk out on a ridge of rocks till he can go no farther, and will then be told he is standing on Land's End!



THE DANCING LESSON.—(FROM A PICTURE, BY F. SMALLFIELD, IN THE WINTER EXHIBITION.)

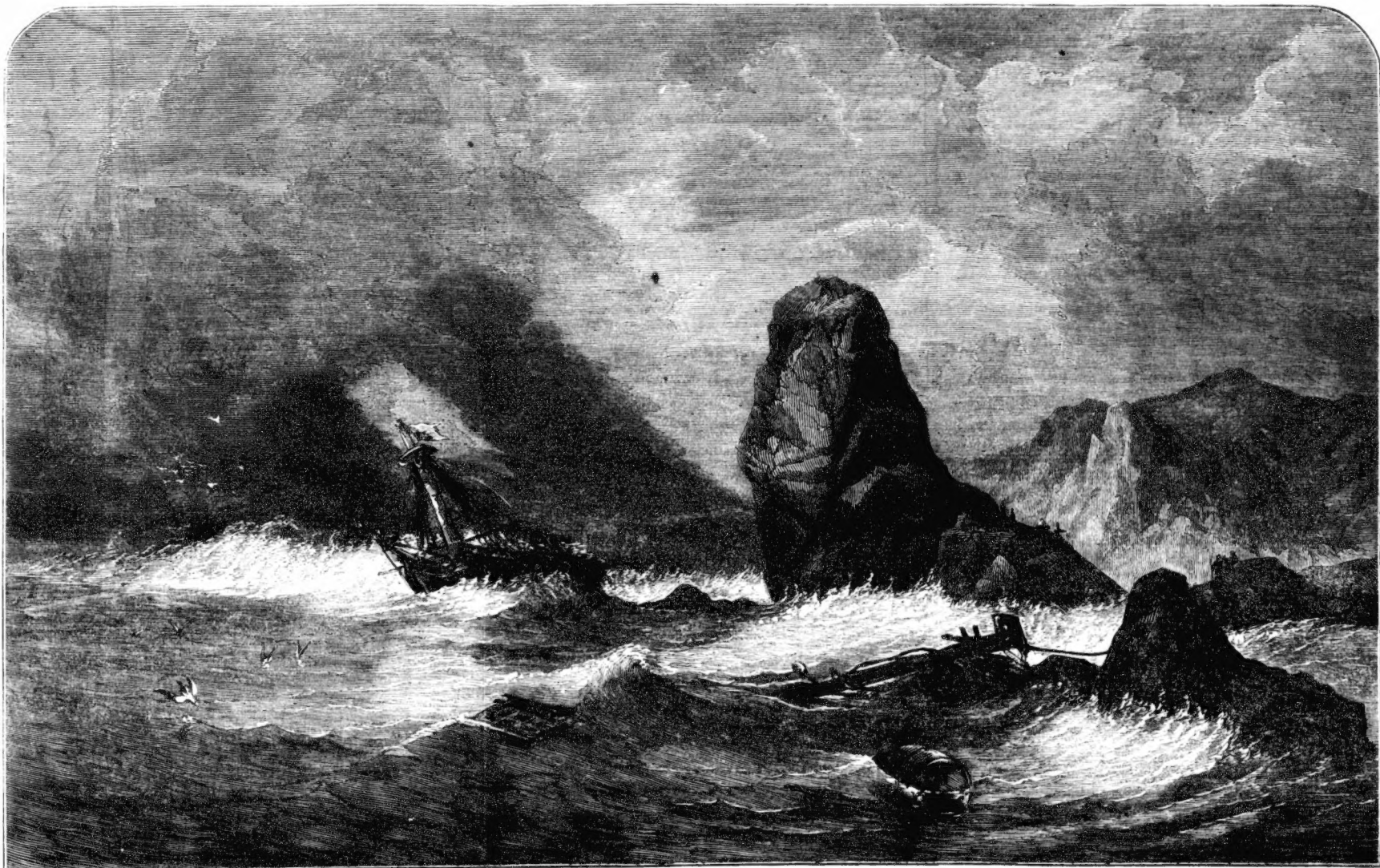
Before you the wide, wild ocean stretches gloriously and afar, the largest of the Scilly Islands being barely discernible on the extreme horizon on clear days. Tracts of heath, fields where corn is blown by the wind into mimic waves, downs, valleys, and crags, mingle together picturesquely and confusedly, until they are lost in the distance on your left. On your right is a magnificent bay, bounded on either extremity by far-stretching promontories, starting upwards from a beach of the purest white sand, on which the yet whiter foam of the surf is ever seething, as waves on waves break in long and regular order one behind the other. The whole bold view possesses all the sublimity that vastness and space can bestow; but it is that sublimity which is to be seen, not described—which the heart may acknowledge and the mind contain, but which no mere words may delineate. Let the reader look at our Engraving from Stanfield's picture, in which the furthestmost rocks of "Old England" stand boldly in the sea, like a rearward, nobly and impressively adapted to the purpose of protecting

takes a great interest in them. More than this, we defy Cellarius himself to discover! "But who is the dancing-master?" some inquiring reader may ask. On that point we can hardly form conjectures. In the first place, however, it is remarkable that he supplies his own music, which is what no fashionable dancing-master would do even if he had the necessary ability. Then he is at home—or he must have been making himself very much at home—for on the table we see a couple of highly-suggestive glasses. Besides, if he were a stranger, and had just come in to give his lesson, it is scarcely probable that the little girls would be in the room with him alone. He is young to be their father; but he is certainly some near relation of theirs, and, to judge from his not very brilliant attire and from his social position as indicated by his profession, we should say that he is in all probability educating them for the stage; for there can be no doubt but that the young man is a dancing-master by vocation. In the "Music Parties" which old Valentin and a number of the Italian masters were so fond

our shores from the fury of the Atlantic waves. In these wild districts the sea rolls and roars in fiercer agitation, and the mists fall thicker, than elsewhere. Vessels pitching heavily in the waves are seen to dawn at one moment in the clear atmosphere, and then at another to fade away as it abruptly thickens, like phantom ships. Such is Land's End.

"THE DANCING LESSON."

It is sometimes very difficult to know what a picture means when the artist does not adopt the plan, which is growing more common every year, of explaining it himself in the catalogue. We are not speaking of the main subject, which, if the painter have any power of representation at all, must, of course, tell its own story; and this is quite enough to enable any competent person to judge of the work from a pictorial point of view. But a large portion of the public are like those indiscreet listeners who, after hearing an anecdote which is in itself good, wish to be enlightened as to a variety of unimportant details, and who sometimes carry their absurdity so far as to ask what So-and-so "did next." Now, in Mr. Smallfield's charming picture of "The Dancing Lesson" (exhibited at the Winter Gallery), we all know, and should know it just as well in the absence of the title, that two little children are being taught to dance, that they are graceful little children, and that their "professor"



LAND'S END.—(FROM A PICTURE BY CLARKSON STANFIELD, R.A., IN THE WINTER EXHIBITION.)

of representing the nobility and dignity of the faces showed that the performers were amateurs of distinction, and not mere fiddlers—who in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries were held in very little esteem. Besides, the cultivation of music has always been an occupation for the highest in every land and at every time. Thus, David played the harp, Nero was a violinist, Prince Albert composes operas, and the Earl of Westmoreland nearly ruined our Academy of Music. But no gentleman ever taught his children to dance. We hear of fathers instructing their sons and daughters in languages, science, and philosophy of all kinds; but, if he wants them to learn the polka, he sends for a "professor."

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1859.

GENERAL HARNEY PHOTOGRAPHED.

We shall be hearing, shortly, through the medium of the President's Message, how the "San Juan Difficulty" is getting on between our own and the United States' Government. According to some accounts, a rather decisive despatch from Lord John Russell has put the Yankees on their mettle, and the President is going to take "a firm stand." Meanwhile—thanks to a Californian journalist, a reporter of the *Alta California*—we have lately had quite a literary photograph of our great antagonist "General Harney." Both the portrait and the artist seem to us worthy of a little study as illustrations of some points of difference between our transatlantic cousins and ourselves.

And first for the artist. Few of the British public, we suspect, know what kind of thing American journalism is, especially the reporters' or correspondents' branch of it. We have nothing like it, not even in the inferior papers of extreme views; for the minute personality of the *Hue and Cry* has a legal and business object. It is a kind of small department of the photographic business. A writer attaches himself to some person of note, or pitches his tent in a town which is the scene of some political activity, and forthwith begins to issue "graphic," familiar, vulgar descriptions of persons and things, in the fullest detail. Thus, in the case under review, the Californian correspondent fairly established himself on board the steamer which was to convey General Scott to his post as representative of his Government, and made it his daily business to study him. We are told that the "veteran" "enjoys his trip amazingly." He is "scrupulously polite to the sisters," we suppose the ladies. At what "of" an evening the General takes dummy. When the General's valet is noticed, the reporter's tone—we hope from no personal jealousy—becomes bitterer. We are told that "he hovers around the General as a wasp round a cow," surely a not very complimentary simile to either. This valet, we further learn, is "a consequential personage," from which we deduce that he had repelled the literary gentleman's advances. And so the letter goes on, no doubt, reliable enough as to mere facts, and only astonishing an Englishman by its tone and taste. One cannot especially help wondering what the mutual relations of sinner and painter are in such a state of society. Do American grandees make up their minds to the kind of thing as among the drawbacks of greatness? Or does the grandee wince every now and then at the thought that his tormentor is studying him openly or through a keyhole? Or, lastly, are grandees and reporter so far on a moral level that the former sees nothing painful or contemptible in their mutual positions and its literary results?

These are questions which might employ the leisure of a philosopher. But we come to the photographic portrait of Harney. That General is our national foe; he insulted one of her Majesty's representatives, and, as far as in him lay, the British power. We cannot be expected to pity Harney, then, while hanging up executed "in this style" for the observation of mankind. We first learn that he is "almost as tall as General Scott," which is so far satisfactory. Next we are informed that he wears "a diminutive cap, stuck on his head," but, in spite of its imperfect adhesion, it seems—of a fine blue. But soon less satisfactory facts appear. He is unpopular, both among civilians and the army. It is strange that, in spite of this, however, "he seems in good spirits." "Yet he is remarkably taciturn, I think," adds the merciless observer, further clinching his belief that the poor man is not happy by appending this curious remark, "His eye glances around furtively!" The force of reporting or corresponding can no further go. Sallust in sketching Cæsar has not excelled this.

Harney, then, was not happy when "our correspondent" saw him; so no wonder he should have left Portland abruptly and in "high dudgeon." Before he departed, the writer tells us, he had a "characteristic outburst." He was heard "swearing at himself"—one of the most discriminating bits of execration we have lately heard attributed to anybody.

Let us be thankful for news from regions so distant, after all. There are some men who shine in painting a particular class of animals, as every exhibition shows us. And, though we would not like to see a Wellington by the gentleman of the *Alta California*, we are thankful for his Harney:—

Great George's acts is a terrible thing,
For Nature formed the poet for the King.

It is interesting to know that two great nations can be set at

variance by an officer who glances furtively, who is popular with nobody, who grows at himself in public, and goes off abruptly in high dudgeon. We wish the telegraphic section of the Yankees joy of their warrior and gentleman, and admire more than ever the tact of Governor Douglas, who took up with him a position of extreme ceremony and impenetrable politeness. On a certain occasion a rough fellow pushed past Lord Chesterfield at the theatre, exclaiming, "I never give way to a blackguard!" "I always do, Sir!" answered that polished peer, moving on one side with a bow.

When we have had our laugh at photographer and photograph we may yet be thankful for some bits of information which he supplies in his most serious mood. He found many Americans evidently displeased with the conduct of their representatives to us at San Juan. We have no doubt of it; and we hope the next news will show us that the little cloud is passing away from between the kindred peoples.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN has granted a pension of £150 a year to the daughters of Frederick Court, whose inventions in the manufacture of iron have contributed so much to the prosperity of the trade; and a pension of £125 a year to the sisters of the late Dr. Dionysius Lardner.

THE VISIT OF PRINCE ALFRED TO ATHENS has made a most favourable impression, and the English colony has been much gratified by the honours paid him by Court and people.—The Prince has since been received with great honour at Corfu.

THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE spent the past week at Knowsley, on a visit to the Earl and Countess of Derby.

ONE OF QUEEN CHRISTINA'S sons has just entered the Military College of St. Cyr. Four young Turks, sent from Constantinople by the Sultan, are also among the latest enrolments.

THE REIGNING DUKE OF SAXE-WEIMAR has conferred the Order of the White Falcon on Mr. Thomas Carlyle.

PRINCE MILOSH OF SERBIA has just promulgated a very singular law for the suppression of usury. It enacts that a debtor who has given an acknowledgment for a usurious debt may appear before an archbishop in a church and declare solemnly on oath the sum he really owes; whereupon, if his statement shall turn out to be true, he shall pay that sum, and no more, but with an interest of 12 per cent!

Le Nord says that the Duke of Modena is about actually starting a newspaper in the Italian language, to be printed at Vienna, and to advocate his claims.

UPWARDS OF FIVE HUNDRED WORKMEN at Woolwich Arsenal have entered their names as members of the Volunteer Rifle Corps. Any artizan is eligible to enter the corps and pay the entrance fee and expenses of outfit by weekly instalments.

THE *Duncan*, 101 guns, on two decks, was launched at Portsmouth on Tuesday.

THE INSTITUTE OF FRANCE has elected Signor Verdi corresponding member for the section of Beaux Arts, and he adds that title to his quality of chosen representative in the chamber of his native Parma.

THE OFFICE OF ROUGE DRAGON PURSUANT OF ARMS, vacant by the promotion of Edward Stephen Dundy, Esq., to the office of Chester Herald, is to be filled by George Edward Adams, Esq., Barrister-at-Law.

THE SURREY MUSIC HALL being now opened on Sunday evenings for the performance of music, although chiefly sacred, Mr. Spurgeon has declined to preach there again. He will commence preaching on Sunday morning next (to-morrow) at Exeter Hall, and continue to do so every Sunday until further notice.

THE REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY AT WOOLWICH is to be increased from its present strength of fourteen to sixteen brigades. Also two extra batteries of 18-pounder guns are to be mounted.

THE SECOND VOLUME of Mr. Buckle's "History of Civilisation" is in preparation by Messrs. J. W. Parker and Son. The same publishers announce the third volume of Mr. Massey's "History of England during the Reign of George the Third," and the fifth and sixth volumes of Mr. Froude's "History of England."

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT has named a commission of engineers to examine the coal of the mines of St. Etienne, the department of the Loire, and of Rive de Gier, in order to ascertain whether they can be used for steam navigation. A commission has already been appointed to visit the coalfields in the north of France for the same purpose.

THE BALLARAT STAR reports the arrival of a donkey in that district. The incident seems to have created much excitement among the population.

THE FIRST TRAIN, consisting of an engine and single carriage, passed over the Victoria Bridge at Montreal on the 24th of November.

A NEW ORATORY ENTITLED "ABRAHAM," by HER Molique, and a new cantata entitled "Undine," by Mr. Benedict (who will act as conductor), are to be brought out at the Norwich Festival next autumn. Madame Otto Goldschmidt has declined to appear at the festival, although she was urgently solicited.

THE GOVERNMENT OF HESSE CASSEL, as a mark of hostility to Prussia, has decided that its troops shall wear uniforms of the Austrian model instead of the Prussian as heretofore.

THE DEATH OF EARL DE GREY placed a Blue Riband at the disposal of her Majesty; but, in consequence of the gift of an extra Garter by the Queen to Lord Derby, he will now occupy the vacant stall in St. George's Chapel at Windsor, and the ordinary Knights—subjects of the Crown—will stand at the usual number.

THE HERRING FISHERY on the east coast is drawing to a close, and, on the whole, the results obtained have been satisfactory to those concerned.

CARDINAL WISEMAN, whose health has been failing lately, has gone to Rome; and the *Freeman's Journal* reports that he is not likely to return to England as a permanent place of residence.

THE FOLLOWING TRANSFERS will take place in the Police Courts upon the retirement of Mr. Long:—Mr. Hamhill will be transferred from Worship-street to Marylebone Police Court; Mr. J. S. Mansfield, stipendiary magistrate at Liverpool, will succeed Mr. Hamhill.

THE PROFESSORS OF THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE OF THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY, DUBLIN, have presented Mr. Richard Hogan, second son of the late eminent sculptor, with a free ticket to their lectures, as a tribute of respect for the memory of his father.

A BILL is under discussion in the Swedish Diet which has received general favour, charging the clergy with the absolute control of all publications sold by hawkers, and inflicting punishment upon every layman who may venture to discuss religious matters without being previously authorised by a clergyman.

THE NUCLEUS OF AN ARTILLERY FORCE for the defence of the Irish coast arrived in Dublin on Sunday.

SMALLPOX is on the increase in Belfast, and we are informed that its symptoms are of a very violent character. There appears to be no registration of birth in Ireland, and vaccination is not compulsory.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ARSENAL AT EAST RETFORD is talked of. The place has a nearly central position, and it is situated on two lines of railway, the one stretching from the Irish Channel to the German Ocean, the other from the far north to the extreme south of the kingdom.

LOED PALMERSTON was one of the first "recruits" in the Irish Volunteer Rifle Brigade which is being enrolled in London.

THE STABBOARD QUARTER of the *Royal Charter* was lifted last week, and twelve boxes, twelve bags, and gold bars and dust, of the estimated value of £100,000, recovered. The total amount of specie recovered must now be upwards of £300,000.

MR. RUTHERFORD ALCOCK, Consul-General in Japan, has been appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in that country.

LADY FRANKLIN is expected in Paris, and it is the intention of the different scientific sections of the Académie to receive her with the honours usual upon the reception of Royalty.

A REMARKABLE VESSEL OF WAR is now being designed by a Mr. Page to be submitted to her Majesty's Government. It is said to defy existing ordinance, and will be capable of throwing with accuracy 300 explosive shells per hour into any dockyard three miles distant.

AT A BALL AT THE BRIGHTON PAVILION, the other day, a number of ladies had their pockets picked of their purses. When the tunc came for their departure the purses were found ranged upon a table, but emptied of their contents.

MESSRS. ROTHSCHILD, it is rumoured, have purchased the St. Petersburg and Moscow Railway from the Russian Government.

VERVUUS seems disposed to commence his winter entertainments. A new month was formed the other day. "On the 17th of November," the official journal of the 2nd of December reports, "an undulating stock of an earthquake was felt in Melitane, a commune in the Basilicata, but no injury was done."

A SON OF MR. MACREADY made his debut at the Ballarat Theatre lately in the character of Claude Melnotte. He does not appear to have made a great success.

THERE IS A STORY AFLOAT about the establishment in London by the Emperor of the French of a daily journal, to advocate his Imperial principles.

THE WORKMEN EMPLOYED AT WOOLWICH ARSENAL are to have a holiday from the 24th to the 27th inst., both days inclusive.

A PROPOSAL MADE BY THE EARL OF CARLISLE to erect a statue in Dublin to the memory of Oliver Goldsmith has been heartily responded to. The commission has been given to Mr. Foley.

THE CROWN PRINCE OF DENMARK has become insolvent, and various acceptances of his, to the amount of 2100 rix-thalers, are offered for sale at such prices as purchasers of that description of bills may offer, provided they be not less than 50 per cent of their nominal value.

THE REPORT OF THE CRYSTAL PALACE DIRECTORS shows that the number of visitors during the past year was 1,381,165, some 20,000 more than the average of the four preceding years. Whilst the net earnings of the year 1857-58 were £35,074 17s. 10d., those of the past year were £45,315 10s. 8d.

A BELGIAN BUTCHER, named Van den Winkell, engaged to fight a large dog. He had come off the conqueror in several such combats before; but in this case a different fate awaited him. At the commencement of the fight the dog, rendered furious by the blows it received from its antagonist, made a spring, and, seizing the man by the throat, laid him dead.

BY THE DEATH OF AN OLD LADY NAMED LARA, at Canterbury, a reversion falls to the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue, Bevis Marks, London, estimated at between £30,000 and £40,000. The property has been accumulating since 1821.

SOME INGENUOUS CITIZEN of Salford is said to have discovered a process by which cracked bells can be repaired, either by fusing together the lips of the crack or introducing new metal, the original tone of the bell being completely restored. This discovery is to be applied to Big Ben, it seems.

A ROYAL WARRANT has been issued, whereby Chaplains of the Presbyterian and Roman Catholic persuasions are put on precisely the same footing as those of the United Church of England and Ireland.

THE GREAT SOIRÉE at Birmingham in furtherance of the Reform movement will take place on either the 6th or 12th of January. Mr. Bright and Mr. Scholefield, the two borough members, will be present.

AN ACTION brought in the Court of Exchequer by a Mr. Penhallow against the Mersey Lightship and Docks Company for damages sustained by a ship in consequence of the neglected state of the dock terminated in a verdict for the plaintiff, with £40,000 damages, the amount claimed by him.

THE SIX RUFIANS who so vilely abused a young woman at Raistrick have been severely punished. One of them, Joseph Briggs, has been sentenced to penal servitude for twenty-five years, the rest to twenty years, penal servitude.

THE PAPER WAREHOUSE OF MESSRS. ROCK AND CO., of Walbrook, took fire on Tuesday morning, and were almost totally destroyed.

IN THE DISTRICTS OF SOLFERINO AND SAN MARTINO there is usually a good deal of distress about this season, but this year the poor of those neighbourhoods have found profitable occupation as *ciceroni* to tourists, to show them where the King stood, where the Emperor, and where Marshal So-and-So.

DURING THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS Professor Faraday will deliver, in the theatre of the Royal Institution, six lectures on "Various Forces of Matter," suited to the capacities of a juvenile audience.

M. DE LAMARTINE'S PATERNAL ESTATE OF MONCEAUX, near Macon, is advertised for sale by auction at the Chamber of Notaries in Paris on Feb. 7. The upset price is fixed at 1,000,000fr. (£10,000).

THE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS announce that a rather strongly-developed smallpox is raging epidemically at Paris. It does not attack children alone, but older people who have too long omitted to have themselves vaccinated.

THE NUMBER OF BIRTHS in Paris for the current year, so far as they are made up, is 37,900, out of which near one-third (11,000) are illegitimate, so declared on the civil registry.

HARTLEPOOL is to be defended by three batteries mounted with large 65 pounders of narrow bore and long range.

A DISCOVERY SUPERSEDING CHLOROFORM AS AN ANÆSTHETIC has been laid before the Academy of Sciences at Paris. It appears that if a bright object is held at some short distance between the eyes, and the patient is directed to squint with both orbits at this brilliant point, catalepsy supervenes and perfect insensibility of some duration, allowing all surgical operations to be performed.

AN EFFIGY OF MR. GRENFELL, M.P., was burnt in Preston last week while a soiree was being held in his honour at the Exchange Rooms. The effigy was carried through the streets by a body of hired "roughs," accompanied by a crowd of boys and a band of music. It is said that a party of five Tories were at the bottom of the affair.

SINCE THE RETURN OF THE 78th HIGHLANDERS to Scotland (says the *Inverness Courier*) old maids have been almost cleared out of the parish of Ardersier, being all married to some one or other in the regiment. No sooner does a lass come to stay at Campbelltown than she has a score of wooers from the gallant 78th. More than forty marriages have taken place already.

THIRTY ARMSTRONG GUNS have been dispatched for service in China.

THE COMMISSION ON FORTIFICATIONS will probably recommend works of defence for the dockyards of the kingdom, and the sum of ten millions sterling is set down as the necessary cost of these. A still larger amount has been named, but it will, no doubt, be thought that this is enough; and ten millions will most likely be asked for next year by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

MR. JAMES WHITE, of Wickham Market, has completed and has now in constant operation a self-winding clock, which determines the time with accuracy.

AT SCANDIANO, a place of some importance in the middle ages, General Garibaldi is said to have organized a battalion of boys, from thirteen to fifteen years of age. They are commanded by Count John Arrivabene, a young man of twenty-three.

ANOTHER FRESCO, by Cope, has just been placed in the Peers' Lobby of the new Palace at Westminster. The subject of the fresco is Lord William Russell the night before his execution.

THE BODY OF A WELL-DRESSED MAN, afterwards identified as that of the Rev. Dugald Douglas, minister of the Established Church at Oban, was found on Thursday week, in Hagg's Wood, near Glasgow. Death had clearly resulted from exposure to cold.

THE NEW SWISS LAW against enlistments for foreign service has just been applied for the first time in the Canton of Berne. A man named Bichsel has been condemned to one month's imprisonment, 100fr. fine, and privation of civic rights during a period of one year, for having recruited men for Naples and Holland.

THREE NEW BATTERIES are to be provided at Raingate, one of which will command the mouth of the harbour.

A SCHEME has been set on foot for the construction of a monster hotel near the London-bridge terminus. The proposed hotel will contain 250 sleeping-rooms, first and second class coffee-rooms, and a due proportion of private and ladies' apartments.

THE TRUSTEES OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM have at length taken into serious consideration the difficulties in which they are placed by our vast accumulation of literary and scientific treasures. They have appointed a sub-committee to consider and report on the subject.

FREE TRADE IN FRANCE.—The Paris correspondent of the *Nord* states that M. Baroche has brought before the Council of State a project containing the revision to the most liberal extent of the principal tariffs in France. "The Emperor," adds the correspondent, "in discussing with Mr. Cobden at Compiegne the principle of free trade, took some trouble to show the celebrated economist that, to bring about commercial liberty in France, energetic resistances have to be overcome, and that it is necessary to proceed with caution and prudence. The measure which is to be submitted to the Legislative Corps will not, then, give complete extension to the principles of commercial freedom; but it will be a material progress upon the present state of things. The resistances of which the Emperor spoke will soon be renewed, not only in the Council of State, but in the Senate, the Legislative Corps, and the industrial centres which depend so much on protection and promotion."

LILLIPUTIAN STOCK.—An entirely new breed of cattle and sheep has been imported this year by Messrs. Baker, of Chelsea and Leadenhall Market. They are both from Brittany, in the north of France, and are remarkable for their diminutive size—the cows standing only from 54 to 56 inches high, and the sheep weighing from about 17lb. to 25lb. each. The great characteristics of the cows are that they are all beautifully made, quiet and gentle to a degree, giving milk of a rich quality, six pints giving nearly one pint of cream, or 17 per cent, and the quantity being above eight quarts per day; while the cost of their keep averages sixpence per day, for they are very hardy, and eat what other cows would refuse. For a pork or substantial grounds they would appear singularly suitable.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

"WHAT a change will come over our literature during the next hundred years!" said I to myself as I stood looking into a clock-maker's window in Baker-street, the other day, where there stood an image of Time with a scythe on his shoulder. The thought was suggested by a visit which I had just made to the implement department of the Royal Agricultural Society's Show; and I would seriously advise all poets and porters, if they have anything more to say about Time and his scythe, and Ceres with her sickle, to make haste and say it, or they will be too late, for in the course of a generation or two these time-honoured implements will be entirely obsolete, and all allusion to them will have to be elucidated by notes. That ancient implement the thrashing flail is already gone out of use. You may travel miles and not hear the well-known thump, thump, upon the barn-floor, for corn now is almost everywhere thrashed by the thrashing-machine, moved by steam-power. This is a great change. It is not thirty years since, on the introduction of the thrashing-machine, the labourers gathered in mobs to smash it because it would, as they thought, throw them out of employ; and now it is not only in general use, but the labourers look upon it as a friend, for it has delivered them from the severe toil which they had to perform, and it has not thrown them out of employ. All the old methods of dressing corn have passed away too; and corn is now thrashed, and dressed, and sacked by machinery impelled by steam, and at the same time. And as the flail is gone, the sickle and scythe will follow: at least, so I augur; for at the Baker-street Show I saw several reaping and mowing machines, and they were not placed there for mere show we may be sure. Indeed, I have learned by inquiry and observation that they are rapidly coming into use. One firm of manufacturers alone boasts of having sent out upwards of a thousand. But it may be said that the sickle and scythe will always be required by small farmers. This, however, is a fallacy; for the machines are not expensive; and, moreover, if a man cannot buy, he can hire; for there has risen up of late in every county a class of men who get their living by letting these more expensive agricultural implements; and you have only to drop a note to one of these men, and on a given day he will plant his locomotive, and thrashing and dressing machines, by the side of your stacks, and have all the corn out and sacked before night; or he will bring his reaper or mower and have your corn or your grass down in a twinkling. But, query? Will there be any small farmers a century hence? Will not the small farmer himself be gone? Everything is tending this way. Whenever a small farm now drops into the landowner's hands the homestead is pulled down, and the land is divided amongst contiguous larger holders. Landlords will not be at the extra expense of keeping up small farms whilst they can readily find, as they can now, men of sufficient capital to take and work larger holdings. I confess this is not a pleasant thing to contemplate. The small farm was the stepping-stone which enabled the labourer to rise from the ranks; but, if small farms are abolished, it will be as impossible for a labourer to become a farmer as it is for a private soldier to become a colonel. It is useless, however, to quarrel with the operations of great social laws. The plough will hold its ground for some time to come; but even this ancient instrument is threatened, and there will come a time when all the land will be ploughed by steam. Steam-ploughing is already begun, and, I am told, with such success that numbers of farmers would have had their lands ploughed in this way last year if they could have got the men and machinery to do it. And note another change. Sowing is obsolete. I suppose a man might travel from land's end to land's end and not see the operation of sowing broadcast. Corn is now drilled or dibbled, and these operations are also performed by machines. Drilling and dibbling fought a long time against the old process, but they have fairly conquered at last. Indeed, there is scarcely an operation upon the farm now which is not performed or aided by a machine. If you want your turnips or wortels cut for your cattle, here is a machine which will cut a bushel in a few minutes. You put your turnips into a circular hopper, turn a handle at the side, and they drop out at the bottom in a continuous stream, sliced as delicately as the most squeamish oxine or bovine stomach can desire. And, again, when corn was stacked, it used to have to wait some time before it could be covered in with thatch; but this need not be the case now, for here is a man who has invented a straw-fabricating machine. When I saw this announcement I could hardly make it out. "Straw-fabricating machine!" said I; "what a machine for making straw?" But on inspection I found that it was for making fabric of straw; or, in other words, for making thatch; so that as soon as the corn is ricked it may be clothed at once with a ready-made coat to keep it dry. But I must give over, and leave four-fifths of the wonders of this department untold. Suffice it to say that everything there proved that farmers cannot now be called a sluggish race, for, however applicable that phrase might have been half a century ago, they are at present moving on at a gigantic pace.

"The thorny paths of ambition" is a phrase well known, and has hitherto been sufficiently descriptive; but I venture to say that the time is come when it ought to be altered, and the word "dirty" substituted for "thorny." The "paths of ambition" may be beset with "thorns," but dirt now is their principal characteristic. The proceedings at Gloucester, Wakefield, Norwich, Pontefract, and a hundred other places, if the truth could be known, bear testimony to this. In fact, it has come to be a serious question whether the paths to the House of Commons, that topmost goal of ambitious aspirants, are any of them clean; and it is to be apprehended that, if something be not done, all persons who instinctively shrink from dirt will instinctively decline to travel in these paths. I have mentioned Pontefract, for during the past week the vexed question which arose in connection with the last election for this borough has been settled, and Sir John Coleridge, to whom the case was referred, has decided that, notwithstanding the high tone which Mr. Overend assumed in the debate in the House of Commons, practices have come to light which have compelled Sir John to award that he (Mr. Overend) never ought to have been the sitting member. Mr. Overend must, therefore, retrace his steps, a wiser, let us hope, but certainly not a cleaner, man than when he first started for the Parliamentary prize.

Sir Henry Keating is to be a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, vice Sir Richard Crowder, deceased; and Mr. Atherton, Q.C., is to succeed Sir Henry Keating as Solicitor-General. Whatever may be thought of the first appointment, the second will give unqualified satisfaction. Sir Henry Keating came into Parliament in 1852. When Sir Richard Bethell succeeded Sir Alexander Cockburn as Attorney-General, in 1857, Sir Henry succeeded Sir Richard Bethell as Solicitor-General. He vacated office, of course, when Lord Derby's party came into power, but took his old place on the return of the Whigs to office. Of Sir Henry's qualifications as a lawyer I know little; but in the House he was simply nothing. In the debates he seldom took a part; and when he did, he did not shine. Perhaps something of this may have been owing to his contiguity to the bright light of his colleague, Sir Richard Bethell. Mr. Atherton is a man whose name is not very extensively known. The reason of this is that Mr. Atherton is a modest man. Most of the lawyers who enter the House, it is well known, come there for one purpose, and for one purpose only. This purpose, if they do not grow in words, they do, consciously or unconsciously, by their acts. You may see it in every name; it peeps out from every speech, and may be traced in every vote. But this was not so with Mr. Atherton. He came into Parliament in 1852; and though, no doubt, he is common with other lawyers in the House, he has had his hopes and expectations, he has never manifestly and openly manoeuvred, and trucked, and struggled for place, as some of his fraternity have done. He ought to have been Solicitor-General in 1857, when Sir Henry Keating was appointed; but there were reasons potent, though inscrutable to vulgar understandings, why Keating was preferred. It was known not to be a very good appointment in a Parliamentary point of view; but "it was the best that could be made under all the circumstances." Mr. Atherton is the son of a Westmoreland minister of considerable note in his day. Dissenting ministers of the higher class are singularly fond of making their sons lawyers. Few of them, however, have risen to eminence. Samuel Warren has done pretty well, and here is another who is in full

title for a Judgeship, but I cannot call to mind a third who has risen to any very exalted position. Mr. Atherton is fifty-three years old, and was called to the Bar in 1839. His circuit was the northern, where he had a lucrative practice. He has the reputation of being a good lawyer. That he is a high-minded, courteous gentleman every one who has been in contact with him well knows.

Although Mr. Cope's motion last week as to the extension of the benefits of the Royal Academy was listened to with the greatest attention, and though his opinions were indorsed by the speeches of several members and by the silence of others, it must by no means be considered that the matter is a *fait accompli*. Reference to the Council shifts responsibility from individuals to a body, and is often made use of for the discomfiture of persons and overthrow of places which no one, single-handed, would venture to oppose. The art-world generally goes fully with Mr. Cope, and it is greatly to be hoped that the Council of the Academy will have the good sense to give way to public feeling.

The volunteer rifle movement grows each day in popularity. Irishmen have entered the field, and the London Irish are fair to rival the London Scottish in number and zeal. The last trek I hear of is the formation of a corps the members of which must all be above six feet in height.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE HAUNTED HOUSE.

THE Christmas number of *All the Year Round* comes with an excellent title, and a larger number of pages than usual, containing the amount of two ordinary numbers in that of a number and a half, as was the case with *Household Words*. Whether the quality is commensurate with the quantity is another question. At all events, one thing is certain, that Mr. Dickens, the presiding genius himself, has not been in greater force, nor his natural humour and peculiar appreciation of the grotesque more rollicking and exuberant. The fault of the number is the obvious manner in which the various stories are lugged in by the heels, and jammed down into various grooves, of the existence of which the original storytellers had obviously no conception—that is to say, the stories have been written without reference to the framework, and the task of fitting them has not been very dexterously managed. The *Haunted House* is an old place in the country with a very bad name; everything horrible has been seen in it, though what is described by the stable-boy of a neighbouring inn as a "hooded woman with a howl" is the most favourite apparition. This old house is taken by the narrator, who fills it with company, to whom he communicates the stories current about it, but binds all to keep quiet as to whatever they may see or hear until Twelfth Night, when their experiences are to be made public.

It needs no conjurer to tell that this opening narration is the handiwork of Mr. Dickens, and in his very best style. Take this description of the servants brought down from London to the *Haunted House*, and recognise at once the master-hand:—

"The cook (an amiable woman, but of a weak turn of intellect) burst into tears on behold the kitchen, and I requested that her silver watch might be delivered over to her sister, 'Tuppence's-garden, Liggs's-walk, Clapham-rise, in the event of anything happening to her from the damp. Streaker, the housemaid, fainted at the sight, but was the greatest martyr. The Old Girl, who had never been in the country, alone was pleased, and made arrangements for sewing an apron in the garden outside the scullery window, and rearing an oak."

We went, before dark, through all the natural—as opposed to supernatural—miseries incident to our state. Despairing reports ascended (like the smoke) from the basement in volumes, and descended from the upper rooms. There was no rolling-pin, there was no salami-ner (which failed to surprise me, for I don't know what it is), there was nothing in the house, what there was was broken, the last people must have lived like pigs, what could the meaning of the landlord be? Through these distresses the Old Girl was cheerful and exculpatory. But, within four hours after dark we had got into a supernatural groove, and the Old Girl had been "eyes," and was in hysterics.

The first story, "The Ghost in the Cloak-room," is the history of a young lady, an atrocious flirt and coquette, who, first making love to a retiring and studious young man simply for the sake of inveigling him and his property, at length loves him truly, repents of her base design, with which she acquiesces him, and finally, after sufficient misery and remorse, is accepted by and married to him. The story—which is not, truth to tell, very strong—is told prettily enough, in that style with which all *All the Year Round* readers will be familiar; and is followed by a riotous piece of preposterous absurdity of the broadest and most farcical nature, called "The Ghost in the Double Room," narrating the adventures of a man who, shaken to pieces in an ill-screwed-up railway carriage, dreams, first, that he has a severe attack of the ague, and then that his whole life is afflicted and warped by his illness. I do not think I can err in attributing this humorous fancy to the pen of Mr. George Augustus Sala.

The third story, told in simple, easy verse, is merely pretty; but for the fourth, called "The Ghost in the Cupboard Room," Mr. Wilkie Collins is doubtless responsible, and will not shrink from the responsibility. No other English writer possesses so great a power of accumulating horrors, of describing them in detail, which, without being in the least degree wearisome, is marvellous from its very exactness—thoughts and feelings, in themselves the merest brain-flashes, being rendered in print with perfect precision, mosaic'd into expression with an incomprehensible fidelity. The story is that of a sailor, who, bound hand and foot, and gagged, is laid down in the hold of a ship (which a piratical crew are about to desert), in the midst of a number of powder-barrels, with a lighted candle stuck two feet from his face, and connected by a slow match with the nearest powder-barrel, and certain to be blown to pieces as soon as the candle burns down. I extract a specimen of the artistic manner in which the detail is worked out:—

Not a sound could I hear but the blowing of a fish, now and then, on the surface of the sea, and the creak of the brig's crazy old spars, as she rolled gently from side to side with the little swell there was on the quiet water.

The wick grew terribly, and the charred top of it began to thicken and spread out mushroom-shaped. It would fall off soon. Would it fall off red-hot, and would the sting of the bright heat it over the side of the candle, and let it down on the slow match? If it would, I had about ten minutes to live instead of an hour. This discovery set my mind for a minute on a new tack altogether. I began to ponder with myself what sort of a death blowing-up might be. Painful? Well, it would be, surely, too sudden for that. Perhaps just one crash inside me, or outside, or both, and nothing? Perhaps not even a crash; that and death and the scattering of this living body of mine into millions of fiery sparks, might all happen in the same instant? I couldn't make it out; I couldn't settle how it would be. The minute of calmness in my mind left it before I had half-done thinking; and I got all abroad again.

When I came back to my thoughts, or when they came back to me (I can't say which), the wick was awfully tall, the flame was burning with a smoke above it, the charred top was broad and red, and heavily spreading out to its full. My despair and horror at seeing it took me in a new way, which was good and right, at any rate, for my poor soul. I tried to pray; in my own heart, you will understand, for the gag put all lip-praying out of my power. I tried, but the candle seemed to burn it up in me. I struggled hard to force my eyes from the slow, murdering flame, and to look up through the blink in the hatch at the blessed daylight. I tried once, tried twice, and gave it up. I tried next only to shut my eyes, and to keep them shut—once—twice—and the second time I did it. "God bless old mother, and sister Maggie; God keep them both, and forgive me." That was all I had time to say, in my own heart, before my eyes opened again, in spite of me, and the flame of the candle drew into them, drew all over me, and burnt up the rest of my thoughts in an instant.

I couldn't hear the fish blowing now; I couldn't hear the creak of the spars; I couldn't think; I couldn't feel the sweat of my own death agony on my face—I could only look at the heavy, charred top of the wick. It swelled, it thickened, bent over to one side, dropped—red-hot at the moment of its fall—black and harmless, even before the swing of the brig had carried it over into the bottom of the candlestick.

I caught myself laughing. Yes! laughing at the safe fall of the bit of wick. But for the gag I should have screamed with laughing. As it was, I shook with it inside me—shook till the blood was in my head, and I was all but suffocated for want of breath. I had just some energy left to feel that my own horrid laughter, at that awful moment, was a sign of my brain going to rack. I had just some energy left to make another struggle before my mind broke loose like a frightened horse, and ran away with me.

"The Ghost in Master B.'s Room" is, of course, by Mr. Dickens himself, and is written with that singular mixture of humour and

feeling, and that perfect perception of juvenile human nature, originally evidenced by him in *Paul Dombey*, and the "Boots at the Holly-tree Inn."

The best and longest story in the number, called "The Ghost in the Garden Room," is that of the miseries brought upon a good-hearted country couple by a blackhearted son, who eventually commits a burglary at his parents' house, and brings them to shame and tribulation. To my mind there is internal evidence enough in his story to connect it with the author of "Adam Bede." The rural descriptions are just in the graphic style of that novel; the characters are vividly drawn, and the dialogue as freshly and as naturally rendered.

But, "The Haunted House," though less Christmasy, and certainly less ingeniously constructed, than many of its predecessors, will be found to contain some of Mr. Dickens's best writing and some of the best stories which have appeared under his editorship.

MR. DENISON AND THE WESTMINSTER HOTEL.—Messrs. Meers, founders of Bug Inn, entered an action against Mr. Denison for asserting that the bell was faulty in casting, that Messrs. Meers had hidden the defects by a wash of some colouring matter, &c. Mr. Denison had pleaded a justification of the libel with which he was charged. The cause was entered for trial before Lord Chief Justice Cockburn and a special jury. On Tuesday week Mr. Denison abandoned his defence, and the cause was, therefore, withdrawn. On the same day he addressed a letter to the founders retracting the statement that holes left in the bell after it was finished and intentionally concealed by a wash were the cause of the cracks. He writes:—"The cracks in the bell are not due to the holes, but to a different cause from any that has yet been suggested, and one which is consistent with good faith on your part, and involves no misdirection on mine. I abstain from saying what it is, because the bell is under examination by two very competent examiners, who will, no doubt, come to the right conclusion as to the cause of the cracks. Although I should undoubtedly have rejected the bell if the holes now disclosed had been visible when I passed it, as I rejected one of Messrs. Warner's bells at the same time for that cause, yet I am ready to believe, from what I have since heard, that you and other persons do not attach the same importance to holes in bells as I do. I have also been informed that the wash with which the bell was coloured, and which made the detection of the holes still more difficult, was put on at the suggestion of a person employed at the Westminster Palace, and therefore not by you for the concealment of the holes." This letter Messrs. Meers declined to accept as any reparation; indeed, they considered the letter an aggravation of the libel, "as it contained statements which were erroneous and calculated to mislead." Judgment has been signed against Mr. Denison by default, and notice given that damages will be assessed in the Sheriff's Court.

SAVAGES, RED AND WHITE.—A young man, named Winter, living in the city of Lafayette, resolved to proceed to California over the plains, but met with some perilous adventures by the way, which he has described in a letter to his father. He was captured twice by the digger Indians, and once by the Gros Cheik Indians. He made his escape once through the interference of a white man, supposed to be a Mormon, who was living amongst them. The second attempt nearly cost him his life, as he was stabbed by an Indian, but drew his revolver, and shot him in the back of the head. In retreating for safety, he ran into some bushes amongst another party of Indians, who were in the act of stripping the body of a white man who had just been killed. Surprised and alarmed, Mr. Winter gave a loud yell, which brought a body of white men belonging to his party from the other side of the creek, by whom he was saved from a horrible fate. He then proceeded:—"Our party killed five Indians on the spot, and took twenty prisoners, eleven of whom escaped during the night. The remaining nine were hung on the following morning. This was done by placing the tongues of the wagons together, and tying a rope at the apex. The Indians were made to stand upon a horse, the rope was adjusted around their necks, the horse was then driven from under the wagons, and each one was thus launched into eternity. One of them proved to be a white man, evidently a Mormon. He was stripped; the iron rods from behind the end gates of the wagons were used to whip him until he was nearly dead. They then heated red-hot, and pushed into his flesh. They then hung him, and tied the knot in such a way as to prolong his suffering. He was then cut down, and taken to the willows. Another Indian was afterwards killed in ambush, and next night the Indians fell upon the travellers, killing two of them, but one Indian was caught, and put through the tortures next day."

AMERICAN paper.

THE PATAGONIAN MISSION.—Captain Snow, an Arctic navigator and devoted missionary, brought an action in the Court of Queen's Bench for wrongful dismissal. The defendants were the Rev. G. Despard and other members of the Patagonian Missionary Society. Snow was engaged to command the *Ellen Gardiner*, a yacht, on an expedition to Terra del Fuego. Snow went out, and made the Falkland Islands his headquarters. He found, however, that he could not remove native converts from the main to the islands, or from one island to another, because it was against the colonial law, and that if any convert died he would be liable to a charge of manslaughter. Snow wanted to be at the head of the mission; but the society sent out Mr. Despard. Quarrels arose between them. Snow refused to recognise the authority of Mr. Despard, and Despard required him to run counter to the colonial law. Then the time of the crew expired, and Snow alleged this also as a reason for non-compliance. Snow managed to engage another crew, but was still dissatisfied. He said (and with some truth, it would appear) that the *Ellen Gardiner* was not large enough to carry nineteen extra persons and twenty head of wild cattle from one island to another. The ordinances, however, said to prohibit the removal of persons from one island to another are, it seems, not in existence. Despard, finding himself thwarted, dismissed Snow. The jury found for the defendants, on the ground that Despard had full authority over Snow, and that Snow refused to obey him. The trial had some amusing points. Snow, in his examination, said it was part of the office of the Captain of the missionary yacht to "write letters" home. "Ladies liked letters." A scene with "Troublesome Jenny or Cassimora" would be invaluable as an instrument of appeal to the generous sympathies of home circles. The *Times*, commenting on the case, says:—"Captain Snow could not restrain his emotions in open court as he described this sudden dismissal with its pecuniary consequences—five weeks in Stanley, which cost him £50, and a passage home, which cost him another £50, 'his and his wife's health impaired,' in the service of an ungrateful missionary association, 'all his books and everything sold.' One would suppose from the way in which he called Heaven to witness against them that his employers were Turks and monsters, instead of being enthusiastic and devoted missionaries burning with the love of human souls. So unfortunate an issue of a well-meant undertaking might have been avoided if these good people had looked before they leaped, and had not been carried so completely away by the romance of their religious expedition as to omit making the slightest inquiries beforehand, or preparing in the least for obstacles and difficulties. Everything was intended to go on smoothly, and only interesting pictures of savage life coming under missionary dominion, of subdued Patagonian chieftains, and awakened barbarian consciences, were to have been the result. As it is, the Patagonian mission has ended very ill, and can show a list, not of heathens converted, but of a number of excellent Christians quarrelling and rousing one another."

THE PRESS IN AUSTRIA AND RUSSIA.—The Austrian Government has issued a supplementary press law which has filled the Viennese editors with great apprehension. The system of warnings is adopted, and penalties imposed on the circulation of rumours or false news, or official intelligence. The 4th article says:—"The same penalties will be applied to those persons when false news or false documents assigned to any definite authority or individual shall have been published as mere rumours, even should they not come within the range of the penal code, whenever they appear of a nature to wound or ridicule any one in his social or official position, or to injure the Government or any public authority, or the official respect due to any special organ of the Government, or to provoke any excitement dangerous to order and tranquillity, or to weaken confidence in Government." The editors desire to know how, under this law, they are to publish anything. In St. Petersburg a step, though a small one, has been taken in the direction of the liberty of the press. The censure is not any longer to be an arbitrary power vested in the functionaries intrusted with its execution. They are to have the right to remove their imprimatur only in case of a direct attack on the constitution, the religion, or the morals of the Russian people.

PATERNAL CARE.—The following is an extract of a private letter, dated the 7th inst., from an Englishman at Munich:—"The day before yesterday some unfortunate wounded Austrian soldiers came through here on their way home from the hospital at Innsbruck. They had all been severely wounded, and were unfit for further service. The paternal Austrian Government therefore thought it no longer necessary to take any care of them, and a more pitiable, heartrending sight I have never seen. They were evidently ill-treated, and took great joy whatever the good-natured Munichers gave them. They were scantily covered with the tattered remnants of their summer uniforms, and some of them had muddy straw shoes, and no stockings; and this with the temperature at ten degrees below freezing point! It was sickening to think of the suffering of these unfortunate creatures, travelling in third-class carriages in such severe weather without sufficient protection against the cold. There was but one feeling among the people here—that of execration against a Government which could behave with such cruel ingratitude to men who had shed their blood and lost their limbs for the sake of their country."

PALACE OF GABARY.
The Viceroy of Egypt possesses, in the neighbourhood of Alexandria, a residence which, although princely, leaves much to be desired in many respects, especially in the limited extent of the apartments, which have not the convenience necessary for grand receptions. Mohammed Said resolved to remedy this defect by adding a wing that should be perfect in every way. French builders were employed, under the direction of M. Etouard Schmitz, civil engineer, to construct, in iron, three pavilions surmounted with domes, and united to each other by vast interior galleries. The entrance to this range of apartments is from a terrace bordered with graceful festoons of Moorish arcades. The greatest richness of ornamentation has been lavished on the building, the architecture of which resembles somewhat that of the Alhambra. The ceilings of the different rooms are decorated in those delicate colours known only to the Orientals. Mirrors on all sides reflect a thousand times the gracefully sculptured pilasters of the galleries. From the steps in front of the central pavilion the eye embraces to the full extent a vast open space on which the Egyptian troops are exercised, and where occasionally a fantasia is performed by the marvellously dexterous Arab horsemen. Beyond stretches the blue sheet of the Mediterranean.

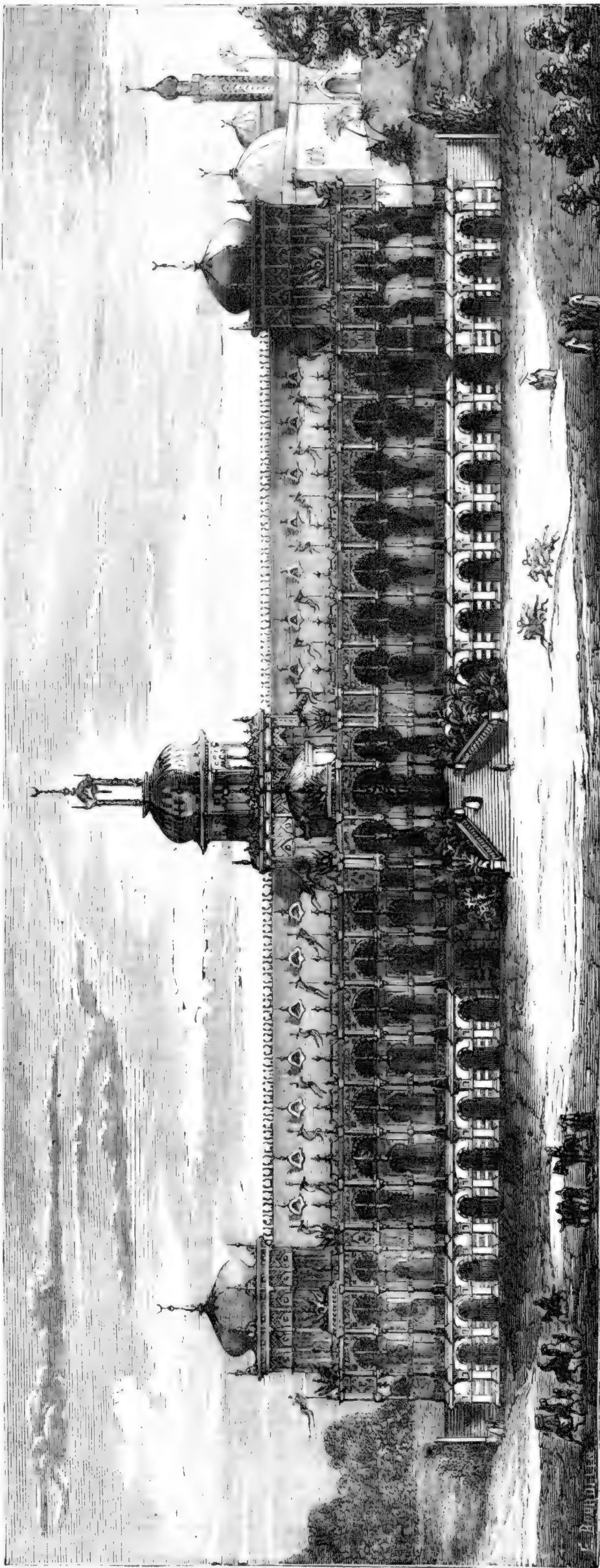
DEATH OF WASHINGTON IRVING.
A BRIEF sentence in the telegraphic summary of the American news tells us that the kindly, genial author of "Sleepy Hollow" has breathed his last. As he has lived in the world since 1783 death cannot be said to have visited him prematurely. He had for many years been living apart from society, in a retreat on the banks of the Hudson.

Mr. Irving was born in New York, April 3, 1783. His father (says a biography in "Men of the Time"), a respectable merchant, originally from Scotland, died while Washington was yet young, and his education was superintended by his elder brothers, three of whom had, without relinquishing active professional pursuits, gained considerable reputation for literary abilities. In 1802, as symptoms of pulmonary disease betrayed themselves, it was resolved that he should visit the south of Europe. He accordingly sailed for Bordeaux, and travelled through the south of France. He then went by sea to Sicily; thence over the St. Gothard, through Switzerland to Paris, where he remained several months. He next went to Holland, whence he embarked for England, and, passing there a part of the autumn, he returned to New York in March, 1806, completely restored to health. He again resumed the study of the law, and was admitted to the bar in

November of that year, but never practised. Shortly afterwards he took the chief part in "Salmagundi," the first number of which appeared in January, 1807, and the last in January, 1808. In the following year he published his "Knickerbocker's History of New York."

In 1810 two of his brothers, who were engaged in commercial business, gave him an interest in the concern, with the understanding that he was not to enter into the duties of the business, but pursue his literary avocations. During the war with Great Britain in 1813-14 he edited the *American Magazine*, and in the fall of the latter year joined the military staff of the Governor of the State of New York, as Aide-de-Camp and Military Secretary, with the title of Colonel. At the close of the war, May, 1815, he embarked for Liverpool, with the intention of making a second tour of Europe, but was prevented by the sudden reverse which followed the return of peace, overwhelming the house in which his brothers had given him an interest, and involving himself in its ruin. In 1818 he determined to employ his pen as a means of support, and commenced the series of papers entitled "Sketch-book," which was transmitted piecemeal from London to New York for publication. Three or four numbers were thus produced, when, finding that they attracted notice in England, he had them

published in one volume. On his failure shortly afterwards, the work was transferred to Mr. Murray, with a second volume. Mr. Murray had bought the copyright for £200, but, its success far surpassing his expectations, he sent Mr. Irving, of his own accord, first £100, and, the sale still increasing, an additional £100. After a residence of five years in England, Mr. Irving removed to Paris in August, 1820, and remained there until July of the following year, when he returned to England, and published his "Bracebridge Hall," in London and New York in May, 1822. The following winter he passed in Dresden, returned to Paris in 1823, and crossed to London in May, 1824, to publish his "Tales of a Traveller." In August he returned to Paris, and in the autumn of 1825 he visited the south of France, passing part of the winter in Bordeaux. In February, 1826, he left that city for Madrid, where he remained two years. There he wrote "The Life of Columbus," which appeared in 1828. In the spring of that year he left Madrid on a tour to the south of Spain, visiting Granada and the main points mentioned in "The Chronicles of the Conquest of Granada," by Fray Agapida, of which he had made a rough sketch. This he prepared for the press at Seville, and transmitted to London and New York for publication. It appeared in 1829. In the spring of this year he



PALACE OF GABARY, NEAR ALEXANDRIA, THE RESIDENCE OF THE VICEROY OF EGYPT.

ary, 1842, he received unsolicited the appointment of Minister to Spain. He left for Madrid on the 10th of April of that year. His official duties terminating in the summer of 1846, he returned to America, and in 1849 commenced the publication of a revised edition of his works, most of which had long been out of print. In 1849 he published "Oliver Goldsmith, a Biography," "Mahomet and his Successors," 1849-50; and "Life of Washington," 1855.

DEATH OF THOMAS DE QUINCEY.

THOMAS DE QUINCEY died at Edinburgh on Thursday, the 8th of December, in his 75th year. We extract the following particulars of his life from a rather remarkable memoir in the *Daily News*—
"Thomas De Quincey was the son of a merchant engaged in foreign commerce, and was born at Manchester in 1786. He was one of eight children, to whom no more than six were ever living at once, and several of whom died in infancy. The survivors were reared in a country home, the incidents of which, when of a kind to excite emotion, impressed themselves on this singular child's memory from a very early age. His father was residing abroad year after year, as a condition of his living at all, and he died of pulmonary consumption before Thomas was seven years old. The elder

brother, then twelve, was obviously too eccentric for home management, if not for all control; and we are warranted in concluding that the Opium-eater entered life under peculiar and unfavourable conditions.

"He passed through a succession of schools, and was distinguished by his eminent knowledge of Greek. At fifteen he was pointed out by his master (himself a ripe scholar) to a stranger in the remarkable words, 'That boy could harangue an Athenian mob better than you or I could address an English one.' And it was not only the Greek, we imagine, but must have been the eloquence too, that was included in this praise. In this, as in the subtlety of the analytical power (so strangely mistaken for entire intellectual supremacy in our day), De Quincey must have strongly resembled Coleridge. He set his heart upon going to college earlier than his guardians thought proper; and, on his being disappointed in this matter, he ran away from his tutor's house, and was lost for several months—first in Wales, and afterwards in London. He was then sixteen. His whole life presents no more remarkable evidence of his constant absorption in introspection than the fact that while tortured with hunger in the streets of London for many weeks, and sleeping (or rather lying awake with cold and hunger) on the floor of an empty house, it never once occurred to him to earn money. As a classical corrector of the press, and in other ways, he might no doubt have obtained employment; but it was not till afterwards

asked why he did not that the idea ever entered his mind. How he starved, how he would have died but for a glass of spiced wine in the middle of the night on some steps in Soho-square, the Opium-eater told all the world above thirty years since; and also of his entering college; of the love of wine generated by the comfort it had yielded in his days of starvation; and again, of the disorder of the functions of the stomach which naturally followed, and the resort to opium as a refuge from the pain.

"This event of his life—his resort to opium—absorbed all the rest. There is little more to tell in the way of incident. His existence was thenceforth a series of dreams, undergone in different places—now at college and now in a Westmorland cottage, with a gentle, suffering wife by his side, striving to minister to a need which was beyond the reach of nursing. He could amuse his predominant faculties by reading metaphysical philosophy and analytical reasoning on any subject, and by elaborating endless analyses and reasonings of his own, which he had not energy to embody. Occasionally the torpor enervated even on his predominant faculties, and then he roused himself to overcome the habit—underwent fearful suffering in the weaning—began to enjoy the vital happiness of temperance and health; and then—fell back again.

"During a long course of years he thus went on dreaming at intervals, sometimes, scheming, weary of his vain and great, and weary of

never to exist; promising largely to booksellers and others, and failing through a weakness so deep-seated that it should have prevented his making any promises. When his three daughters were grown up, and his wife was dead, he lived in a pleasant cottage at Lasswade, near Edinburgh—well known by name to those who have never seen its beauties as the scene of Scott's early married life and first great achievements in literature. There, while the family fortunes were expressly made contingent on his abstinence from his drug, De Quincey did abstain, or observe moderation. His flow of conversation was then the delight of old acquaintance and admiring strangers, who came to hear the charmer, and to receive the impression, which could never be lost, of the singular figure and countenance and the finely-modulated voice, which were like nothing else in the world. It was strange to look upon that fragile form, and features which might be those of a dying man, and to hear such utterances as his—now the strangest comments on insignificant incidents; now pregnant remarks on great subjects; and then malignant gossip, virulent and base, but delivered with an air and a voice of philosophical calmness and intellectual commentary such as caused the disgust of the listener to be largely qualified with amusement and surprise. One good thing was that nobody's name and fame could be really injured by anything De Quincey could say. There was such a grotesque air about the mode of his evil-speaking, and it was so gratuitous and excessive, that the hearer could not help regarding it as a singular sort of intellectual exercise, or an effort in the speaker to observe, for once, something outside himself, rather than as any token of actual feeling towards the ostensible object.

"Let this strange commentator on individual character meet with more mercy and a wiser interpretation than he was himself capable of. He was not made like other men; and he did not live, think, or feel like them. A singular organisation was singularly and fatally deranged in its action before it could show its best quality."

THE OLDEST PRIVATE IN THE BRITISH ARMY.

JOHN SPRUTT, the fine old veteran whose Portrait we give in this Number of our Journal, belongs to the Portsmouth division of the Royal Marines. His age is seventy-nine, and he has been fifty-four years in this corps and previously in the Militia. He has served under four Sovereigns, having entered the Army in the reign of George III. Eleven good-conduct badges decorate his right arm—a greater amount than any other man in the service possesses; and, what is more, his name has never yet appeared on the defaulters' list. He was present at Fort Bott, in the war with Holland; and obtained a medal for boat service off Rochefort, in 1810. The reader naturally asks why so old a soldier should remain a private? It is his own choice that has kept him in that position; and, although discharged lately, at his own request, on account of length of service, his attachment to his old corps still keeps him hovering about the barrack-yard, as if ready to return to duty.

THE MAHARAJAH OF CASHMERE'S PRESENT TO THE QUEEN OF ENGLAND.

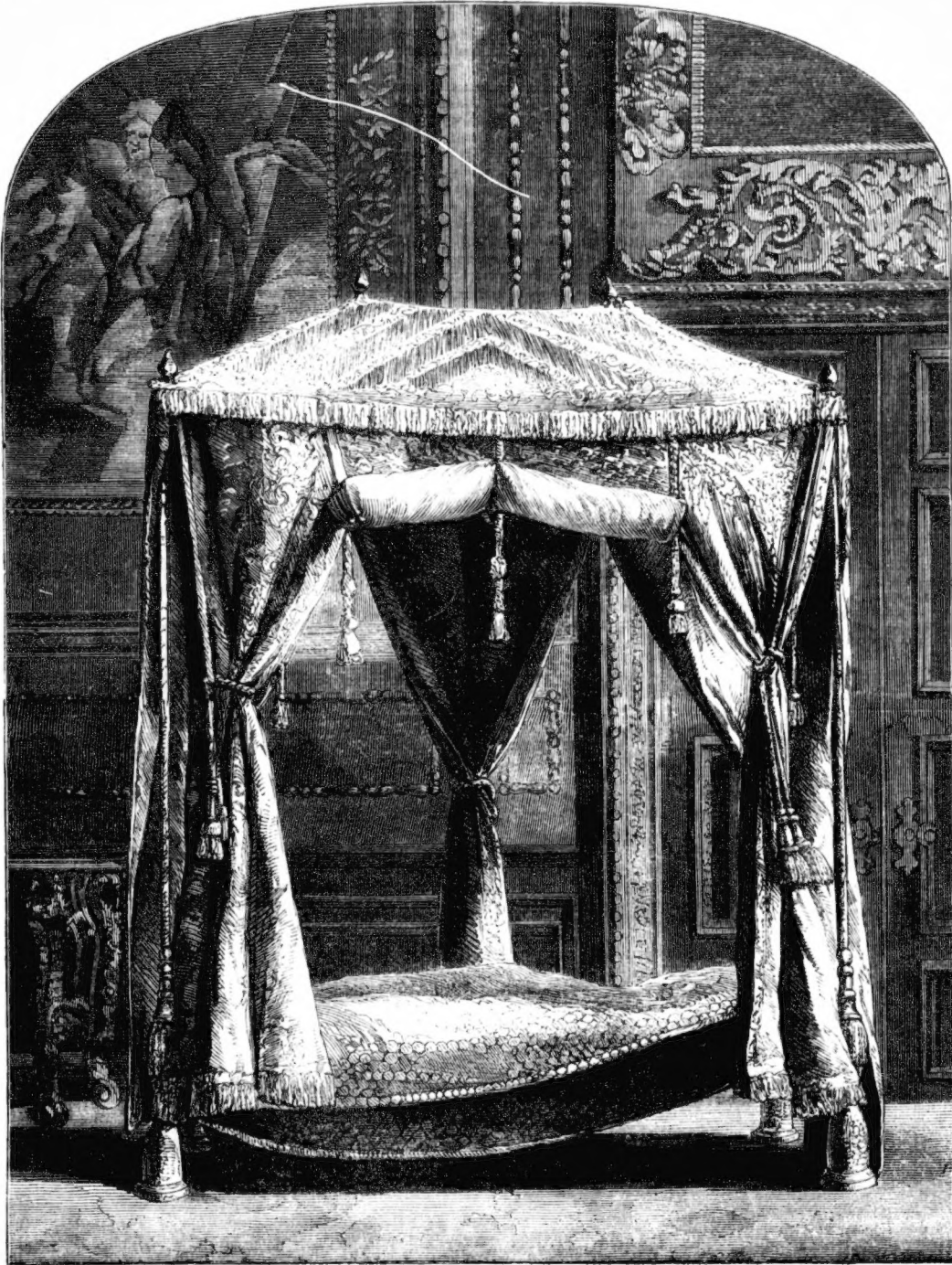
The gold bedstead presented to the Queen, and carpet on which it stands, are said to value £150,000. Colonel Willoughby, from the East India House, was charged to convey the costly gift to Windsor Castle, where it was submitted to her Majesty on the 2nd of November last. Among the works of art and science exhibited at the conversazione held last week in the rooms of the Great Western Railway Literary Society this bedstead, which had been graciously lent for the purpose by her Majesty, formed, as might have been expected, the chief object of interest. Annexed is a brief description of this gorgeous specimen of Oriental art. The posts of the bedstead are of gold, the fringes and filigree of the curtains and tentlike covering being of the same costly material. The posts are covered with elaborately-etched ornamental work, and the curtains and upper covering are composed of the most beautiful cashmere woven texture, shawl pattern, and distinguished by designs in excellent taste, with colours and gold intermingled in the most ingenious manner, so as to produce an agreeable contrast. The tentlike top of the bed is covered with shawl-border patterns in stripes, the prevailing ground-work of the whole textile fabric being green, and the various fringes and tassels of gold. The inside linings are of crimson colour, quilted in lozenge pattern, with bands at each side. The elaborately-worked carpet of cashmere, shawl pattern, on which the bedstead stands, has a crimson ground to harmonise with the curtains.

COX'S NORTHWICK GALLERY.

At Mr. Cox's Gallery in Berners-street a number of pictures by old masters, chiefly from the Northwick Collection, and of modern works from various sources, are now being exhibited. What appears to be the chief attraction in the room is Maclise's "Marriage on the Battle-field," which many of our readers will remember to have seen at the Royal Academy; though the attention of the visitor is also called to "The Recumbent Venus," painted by Titian, which became the property of the present owner at Lord Northwick's sale, and which, until quite recently, had not been submitted to public inspection for upwards of twenty years. In the year 1839 "The Recumbent Venus" (which is very nearly the same as, if not actually a repetition of, the "Venus" of Florence) was exhibited at the St. James's Gallery of Paintings, Pall-mall, when, says a descriptive notice of the picture inserted in the catalogue, "among the thousands of admirers which it attracted, but one opinion seemed to be entertained—that it ought to become national property, and a



JOHN SPRUTT, THE OLDEST PRIVATE IN THE BRITISH ARMY.
(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY HARRIS, OF PORTSEA.)



GOLD BEDSTEAD PRESENTED TO HER MAJESTY BY THE MAHARAJAH OF CASHMERE.

subscription was then proposed, to place it in the National Gallery, by five thousand subscribers at a guinea each, which, however, was afterwards abandoned, and the work passed into the hands of the late noble owner." The notices from contemporary journals prove that the painting did indeed excite considerable enthusiasm at the time, some accepting it was indubitably authentic, while others declared that, if it was not the work of Titian himself, it proved the existence of some other painter equally as great and with precisely the same qualities as Titian. The history of "The Northwick Venus" is very remarkable. It was discovered, we are told, about forty years ago with a parcel of old furniture in an attic in London, covered with the house-dirt of nearly two centuries; and the writer adds that "the most probable conjecture that can be formed to account for a work of such superlative merit remaining so long neglected in obscurity is, that it was originally one of the celebrated gallery of King Charles I.," and that, having been secreted by some dependent, it "got lost in the confusion of the times which followed." Among the other works of the old masters are Cignani's "Adam and Eve," a forcible "St. John" by Annibal Caracci, "An Interior," marvellously lighted up, by De Hooghe, &c.

Although many of the modern paintings in Mr. Cox's gallery are of very great merit (including works by Lawrence, Reynolds, Gainsborough, Constable, David Roberts, and Etty's admirable "Joan of Arc"), the most conspicuous in the room, and the one which the public are more particularly invited to inspect, is "The Marriage on the Battle-field." This picture was first exhibited at the Royal Academy Exhibition of 1854; and in the catalogue of that year we find it described in the following words:—"The marriage ceremony was solemnised on the battle-field after the siege of the sacked and ruined city of Waterford; and it was in the midst of its scenes of desolation that the conqueror received the hand of the Princess Eva. The picture represents the celebration of the marriage beneath the ruined porch of the church of the period, and its round tower, the triumph of the invading Norman knights, the submission of the Irish chieftains, the mourning over the fallen, and the burial of the dead." After perusing the above description when it first appeared most English readers felt inclined to ask who the Princess Eva was, and who the conqueror. With the view of dispelling all ignorance on the subject the proprietor of the "Northwick Gallery" has prevailed upon Mr. Samuel Lover to write an account of the tragic circumstances under which "The Marriage on the Battle-field" was solemnised, and it is from his interesting narrative that we learn how the fair Eva's father had twenty years before carried away a sort of Hibernian Helen, in consequence of which he was attacked by the Irish chiefs, and, at length, calling upon the English to assist him, promised the hand of Eva as the price of the aid furnished by Strongbow Earl of Pembroke. Mr. Lover's description of the fine historical picture from an artistic point of view is also valuable, and the exhibition itself is well worth a visit.

NEW STAFF COLLEGE AT SANDHURST.

The first stone of the projected college for officers of the Army who, having served a probation in regimental duties, seek by a higher course of training to qualify themselves for Staff appointments, was formally laid at Sandhurst on Wednesday by the Commander-in-Chief, the Duke of Cambridge.

It may not be generally known that about two years ago, at the suggestion of his Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief, a new and senior department was added to the Royal Military College at Sandhurst. The institution had hitherto been confined to the instruction of cadets in the first rudiments of the military art, with a view to fit them for commissions in the Army; but increased attention having been attracted of late years to the subject of military education, and the stimulus of competitive examinations having been applied, not to the civil services of the State alone, but also to the scientific and other branches of the Army, it was thought that the machinery of Sandhurst College might be made available for carrying to a higher point the professional attainments of officers who have already seen service in the Army, as well as for training boys who are candidates for first commissions. Hence originated what is called the Staff College, which was founded by order in Council, in February, 1888. Though established to impart instruction of a special and very advanced order, and therefore in its object and purpose quite distinct from the existing Military College, the new system has been conducted up to the present moment as a mere adjunct to that institution. But the time has come, in the opinion of its founders, for it to take a step forward, and enter a new phase of its history. Moreover, the accommodation of the present college, where the cadets alone number about 150, does not admit of any expansion of what was from the first but an intrusive element; and it has been deemed only fitting that the competitors for Staff employment should have a separate building of their own in which to pursue their studies.

The number of students with which the Staff College commenced its career was only fifteen; now it reaches a maximum of thirty; and, when the new quarters are ready to receive their inmates, it will admit of still further extension. As some indication of the nature and range of the studies of these officers, it may be stated that the professional staff now consists of nine professors—viz., two for mathematics, one for military history and art, one for fortification, one for military administration, one each for French, German, and Hindustani, and one for military topography. The students are divided into a senior and junior class, and the period allowed them for passing through the college is two years. Examinations by

The Council of Military Education are held every six months, so that, independently of the minor ordeals through which they are put quarterly, and even monthly, by the collegiate authorities, the progress of each class is gauged and tested at four successive stages of their collegiate course.

The new Staff College will be pleasantly situated on a gentle slope from half to three-quarters of a mile to the eastward of the Cadets' College, and within the spacious grounds attached to the last-named establishment. The new edifice, the foundations and basement of which are already laid up to within a foot of the ground floor, is expected to be completed in eighteen months. When finished it will afford accommodation for forty students. The building will be 265 feet long, 110 broad, and 55 in height, its style of architecture modern Italian, and the material brick and stone. The main entrance will be by the west front, and over it the Royal arms will be emblazoned, surmounted by the crest of the college. At each end will be a tower, rising about 20 feet above the rest of the building. The principal apartments will comprise the great hall, lecture-rooms, study-halls, libraries, and mess-rooms. The grand hall will be approached from the front by a handsome vestibule, and communication will be had to two spacious quadrangles by lengthened corridors. A wide stone staircase will lead up to the first floor, and on the landing there will be an ornamental balustrade surmounted by Ionic columns.

The contract also includes the erection of suitable residences for the Commandant and Adjutant of the College, together with stabling for a stud of forty horses. The works are under the direction of Colonel Chapman, C.B., of the Royal Engineers, assisted by Captain Gray and Lieutenant Bowdley, Royal Engineers. Mr. Myers has the contract, the completion of which is estimated to cost from £40,000 to £50,000.

The occasion of his Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief's visit to Sandhurst to receive the half-yearly report of the Council of Examiners was fixed upon for the laying of the first stone of the new edifice. His Royal Highness was attended by General Forster, Sir Richard Airey, General Cameron (Vice-President of the Council of Military Education), Major-General Sir E. Lugard, and Colonel Clifton, Aide-de-Camp to the Commander-in-Chief. His Royal Highness was received by Sir Harry Jones, Governor of Sandhurst Royal Military College, and other of its officers.

The programme of the day's proceedings opened with the parade of the cadets on the ground immediately in front of the college. They were put through the manual and platoon exercise, the sword-bayonet exercise, and battalion drill, in all of which they acquitted themselves with distinction.

After inspecting the plans and drawings executed by the students, the distinguished party then repaired to the site of the proposed Staff College, to perform the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone. This we need not describe; but shall conclude with an extract from the address of his Royal Highness to the students after the ceremony of awarding certificates to the successful Staff collegians had taken place:—

The question of education is one of very considerable difficulty. We all desire to see it carried to the highest possible pitch, so that the education given does not reach a point where it would destroy efficiency. Your mere bookwork is a very respectable person in his way; but he is not altogether the man you want for a staff officer. You want to have book learning and all other necessary qualities combined. Therefore, gentlemen, as you have now obtained a great amount of theoretical, and I am bound to add practical, knowledge, to fit you for the Army, while I would recommend you to keep up your studies by books, I would urge you to devote yourselves specially to mastering the interior economy of a regiment and all those minor and practical details, an acquaintance with which, I contend, is as essential in many respects as the higher subjects of study connected with our profession. Do not disregard these things, then, because you have taken honours and gained a high position in mathematics and other useful acquirements. Don't forget those small details without which an army cannot get on. Sometimes, indeed, an army suffers severely from the neglect of the most minute arrangements, and matters which some would think of the very least importance may, after all, prove of more consequence than all the rest besides. Let me, then, impress upon you the necessity, when you return to the service and obtain those staff appointments which I trust to see you all filling, of your applying yourselves to everything which can increase your qualification for your profession with the same zeal and devotion as you have shown within the walls of this institution. Gentlemen, I can only congratulate you again on the very favourable account I have received of your proficiency. The progress you have made must, I am sure, be very satisfactory to the Governor, Sir Harry Jones, and to the professors; and I will only add that, whenever I visit this place again, if I should be spared to do so, and get an equally good report, I shall be exceedingly gratified.

ST. GEORGE'S-IN-THE-EAST.—The services at the Church of St. George-in-the-East passed over more peaceably than usual last Sunday; but at the close of the evening service a large body of people followed the choristers through the streets to the Mission House, in Wellclose-square, hissing and hooting. The Rev. C. F. Lowder, who has been officiating for the Rev. Bryan King at the Church of St. George-in-the-East during his illness attended on Thursday week before Mr. Yardley, on a summons charging him with assaulting a parishioner named Soames. It appears that on the morning of the previous Sunday there was a wedding at St. George's Church, the persons interested in which were admitted into the church at a quarter past ten o'clock by a side door. Mr. Soames, knowing that the choristers and others had gone in, determined upon following them, when Mr. Lowder, who had possession of the door, refused him admission, raised his arm, and struck him on the shoulder, and then, banging to the door, made Mr. Soames a prisoner by the skirt of his coat, which was caught by the doors. In this position Mr. Soames became the scorn of the choristers, who taunted him with his captivity, remarking that "he was not the first dog that had been chained." There is a break here in the sequence of the narrative, and we are not informed how long Mr. Soames continued divided between the awkwardness of his situation and the integrity of his coat, or how he ultimately extricated himself; but it appears that he did achieve his liberty at last, and went into the church by the west door. Four parishioners were called in support of the charge of assault, and Mr. Digby Seymour, M.P., who attended for Mr. Lowder, argued in defence that the door was the private entrance of the Rector, and Mr. Soames had no business there. Mr. Churchwarden Thompson was also called, and proved that this was not a door for the Rector, but for the public; upon which the magistrate decided that the assault had been fully proved, and expressed his opinion that Mr. Lowder had acted very judiciously in acting as a policeman or doorkeeper. He added that he did not believe a religious principle actuated any of the parties. As the complainant had paid 2s. for the summons, he should fine Mr. Lowder 2s. for the assault, so that one party might not exult over the other. This examination brought out the fact of the formation of an "Anti-Puseyite League" in or connected with the parish of St. George-in-the-East. At a meeting of the vestry of the parish petitions to both Houses of Parliament have been adopted, setting forth the complaints of the parishioners against the Rev. Bryan King, their Rector, and praying for relief by the enactment of some cheap and summary process, whereby the laity may remove an erring or wrongheaded incumbent.

THE FORTIFICATION OF ALGERIA.—It is in contemplation to fortify the ports of Algeria, and from twelve to fourteen millions are to be devoted to the purpose. The Government is said to have fixed on the roadstead of Bugia as the point of concentration for the French squadrons on the northern coast of Africa, and the vessels which may be lying there in a well-sheltered anchorage will be protected by several strong forts. Algiers, Philippeville, and Bona are also to be fortified.

THE CONSERVATIVE LAND SOCIETY.—The seventh annual meeting was held in the offices, 33, Norfolk-street, Strand, on Tuesday, the 13th inst.—Viscount Ranelagh in the chair, who submitted the report of the executive committee. The returns for the financial year show a total of 711 new shares and cash receipts of £19,622 18s. 10d., making a grand total of 15,093 shares and £407,973 14s. 5d. The increase of cash receipts in the year is £2629 11s. 8d. The increase on the Michaelmas quarter, as compared with the corresponding one of 1888, amounts to £6022 11s. 8d. There has been a decrease of expenditure of upwards of £1400. The allotment of the Rochampton estate has been postponed till the present financial year, and the new purchase at Old Ford will be offered on the 18th of January. The building prospects on the various estates are most promising. The increased rate of interest from 4 to 5 per cent on shares, and 3 to 4 per cent on deposits, will be maintained for the present.

THE ORDER OF THE BATH.—Some appointments to the Order of the Bath have been made by her Majesty. Major H. B. Lumsden, of the Bengal Army, lately employed on a mission to Candahar, and Major W. H. R. Green, of the Bombay Army, employed on special duties in Upper Sindh; Mr. R. G. Colquhoun, Consul-General in Egypt; Mr. J. T. Crawford, Consul-General at the Havannah; Mr. J. R. Crowe, Consul-General in the Kingdom of Norway; Mr. J. Ward, Consul-General in Saxony; Sir A. Perrier, Knt., Consul at Brest; and Mr. H. S. Parkes, Consul at Shanghai, are to be ordinary members of the civil division of the third class, or Companions of the Order of the Bath.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

THE managers of theatres and concert-rooms are advertising all kinds of "last performances," as if, at Christmas, there was to be an end to everything. It appears probable, however, that at the Royal English Opera the public will not, for some weeks at least, have an opportunity of hearing "Dinorah;" though—thanks to the admirable style in which that work has been performed during the past three months, and the special reputation which the theatre has gained by its mode of presenting one of Meyerbeer's most charming and also most difficult operas—it can be reproduced at any time with a certainty of success. The first performance of Mr. Alfred Mellon's "Victorine" is fixed positively for Monday next; and we have no doubt but that this operetta, by a distinguished musician who has long been favourably known as a composer through a variety of incidental music (to say nothing of his instrumental works, which were first heard at the meetings of the Orchestral Union), will keep possession of the programme until long after the Christmas holidays.

On Saturday there was an end to the Promenade Concerts at Drury Lane, under the direction of the "committee of gentlemen"—which turns out to be Mr. Strange, of the Crystal Palace, who, though a "host," never appeared in such a multitudinous capacity before. The concerts were comparatively well attended during the last week, and the director or directors appear to have endeavoured in the arrangement of their programmes to suit all tastes. A good deal of classical music was performed, and quite enough of what the author of the bills called "light and cheerful music." It appears almost as difficult to write well in the "light and cheerful" style as in any other; and in spite of the myriads of polkas, waltzes, mazurkas, &c., that issue from the press every year, no one has composed an original and graceful waltz since Strauss (we mean, of course, the father); while almost the only mazurkas that are worth anything are those arranged by Chopin and other pianists, his imitators, from the national melodies of Poland, and which cannot, of course, be included at all in the category of dance music. By way of an additional attraction, M. Wieniawski's "farewell performances" were announced—as if the public would be very pleased to hear that admirable violinist (who, we are happy to say, has no intention of leaving us) for the last time. The pianist of the second week was Herr Pauet, the solo vocalist Miss Laura Baxter (vice Madame Lemmens Sherrington); and a new instrument, a member of the harmonium family, was introduced under the name of the "harmonichord." The performer on the "harmonichord" was Mademoiselle Judith Léon.

The week before Christmas is a great time for "The Messiah." Indeed it would be difficult to find a concert-room of any importance in London where Handel's great work will not be given some day between now and next Friday. The Sacred Harmonic Society, which, according to custom, commenced its winter season with "The Messiah," announces it again for December the 23rd, with Madame Rudersdorf, Miss Dolby, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Signor Belletti as principal vocalists. Mr. Hullah, who commenced his season at St. Martin's Hall with "Alexander's Feast" and "The May Queen," advertises "The Messiah," with Miss Banks, Miss Martin, Miss Dolby, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Mr. Thomas in the solo parts; and Dr. Wyld, the originator of the "popular oratorio" scheme, promises a performance of "The Messiah" at St. James's Hall.

It would not suit the plan of the "Monday Popular Concerts" to include "The Messiah" in one of their programmes, but we observe that at the concert of next Monday the instrumental music of the first part is to be selected entirely from the works of Handel. On this occasion the songs will be chosen from the "Popular (English) Music of the Olden Time;" and, as Miss Poole and Mr. Ramsden are the vocalists engaged, the same specimens will, in all probability, be offered there were given with so much success some ten days since in Mr. Cahppell's entertainment at the Gallery of Illustration—that is to say, "Oh the old oak and the ash," "Near Woodstock Town," "To the maypole haste away," "The bailiff's daughter of Islington," "Oh lost to my only love," &c.

A variety of other entertainments less classical, though in all probability equally entitled to the questionable epithet of "popular" with the admirable vocal and instrumental concerts of which we have just spoken, are being given, or are announced as in preparation, at the St. James's Hall. The most outrageously "popular" of these is the entertainment of the "Campbell Minstrels," whose notoriety is now as great as that of the well-known Christy band. To speak of negro performances to the lover of Italian music would, of course, be absurd, and, "Hic niger est, hunc tu Romane caveto!" is, from a musical point of view, all that can be said even of the "inimitable Mackuey." An American journalist wrote some months since an ingenious and sensible article on the subject of negro melodies and negro minstrels, tracing the progress of the art, both as regards composition and execution, from the advent of Jim Crow down to the present day. The humour of the paper consisted, as may be imagined, in treating the ballads of black men as if they were works of art; but the writer had some serious moments in which he pointed out that whatever interest nigger-singing might originally have possessed was being gradually lost in proportion as it ceased to be characteristic. These darkies should have nothing whatever to do with the songs of white men, and should be forced to keep to their own sable repertoire; instead of which we find them constantly indulging in a certain kind of feeble sentimental music which is neither black nor white, but which, perhaps, forms the link between the two, and may therefore be described as piebald. Probably it was on account of the unpleasant character of the quasi-pathetic lamentations sung by the Christy Minstrels—ranging from the insipid to the nauseating—that Mr. Balfe was requested some time since to supply them with a melody. With this request Mr. Balfe, like an artist of the world, complied, and it appears that now to a similar petition from the Campbell brotherhood Mr. Wallace has responded. We have not heard either of these new airs; but they must be far too good for the black gentlemen who sing them, or else not nearly good enough for the white gentlemen who have composed them.

Determined that we shall not have a dull Christmas, another proprietor of blacks (Mr. Albain) assures the London public every day, through the columns of the *Times*, that his "Coloured Opera Troupe" will make their reappearance at the St. James's Hall on the 20th of this month—and, what is more, in Court costume!

Another entertainment, of a very different character, but also in honour of Christmas, and also at the St. James's Hall, is announced for the 23rd, when M. Laurent gives a "Festival Ball," with an orchestra of one hundred performers, who will perform a variety of new and appropriate dance music, such as the Waits Quadrille, Mistletoe Polka, &c.

One would have thought that there were enough musical societies, unions, &c., in London already; but it appears that a new "London Orchestral Association" is being organised, under the direction of Mr. Benedict and Dr. James Peeh, and that six well-known instrumentalists (Messrs. Willy, Webb, Westlake, Pettitt, Reynolds, and Maycock—of whom at least one must be an Irishman) have ingeniously formed themselves into a "Quintett Union."

THE ROYAL THEATRE.—The dramatic performances at Windsor Castle will be resumed after New Year's Day. They take place in St. George's Hall. The audience, in addition to the Queen and Royal family, consists of the guests visiting at the castle and about fifty of the neighbouring gentry, who are honoured with special invitations. The visitors assemble in a drawing-room, and await the passage of her Majesty, the Prince, the Royal family, and the dinner guests to the theatre, making their obeisance as the illustrious party pass. The evening visitors follow to the theatre and take their seats in rows of chairs behind the Royal family and her Majesty's guests, on a semicircular platform or dais, on the plan of a regular theatre, in front of the stage. The Queen and Royal family occupy the centre seats, and her guests occupy places of honour on either side, in the first and second row, according to their rank. The Ladies in Waiting and officers of the household are placed immediately behind the Queen and Prince; then come the evening visitors—the background and odd corners and gallery being filled up by the superior members of the domestic establishment. Immediately on her Majesty taking her seat the performance commences. In the intervals between the acts—or, if there are two pieces, at the conclusion of the first one—refreshments are served to the visitors, and again at the

termination of the performance. The actors have a very handsome supper provided for them at the termination of their professional duties, and special train takes them to the metropolis.—*Court Journal*.

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—This association held its annual general meeting on Friday week. It has now between 5000 and 6000 members, with funded stock amounting to £20,000. The late Mr. James Hudson, the secretary, had not been behaving properly, and, being dismissed, a new secretary was appointed. Canterbury is the place for the next show of the society. The society is altogether in a most satisfactory and improving state.

LAW AND CRIME.

A CURIOUS, but, as it appears, not unprecedented, fact appeared upon record in the list of criminal cases tried at the recent winter assize for the county of Kent. It is said that fully one-half of the prisoners were soldiers. The character of some of the offences with which the men are charged renders the matter still more remarkable. It shows clearly that the British soldier in the county of Kent regards even penal servitude as a desirable change from his condition. There can be no doubt of this. The instances in which the feeling is displayed are too numerous to be merely exceptional. John McCarthy, a private in the 23rd Regiment, stood charged with several burglaries. Before his trial he sent to the inspector in charge of the case a detailed list of crimes which he acknowledged to have committed, and, moreover, added the particulars of former convictions against himself. The object of this was clearly to render himself liable to penal servitude; and, when sentenced to this punishment for six years, the prisoner exclaimed, "Thank you, my Lord; that's just what I wanted!" One Wallis, of the 73rd Regiment, was indicted at the same assizes for arson. A stack of wheat was seen in a blaze, and the prisoner, coming from the direction of the fire, declared himself to the first person he met to be the incendiary. He was thereupon taken into custody, when a box of lucifer matches was found in his possession. Upon the trial the prisoner retracted his confession of guilt and made the following singular statement:—He had (he said) seen the fire, and had thereupon asked a man with whom he was in company at a beer-shop whether his simple confession would be sufficient to ensure his own conviction of the crime. The man replied that, if he wished to be convicted, he had better buy a box of matches and have them found upon him; and upon this suggestion the prisoner acted. This part of the story, strange as it may appear, was proved in evidence. The prisoner declared that he had only confessed in the hope of escaping further military service; but the jury found him guilty. A second soldier, charged with a like offence, pleaded guilty, and stated as his reason for the act his desire to leave the Army. These two men were each sentenced to six years' penal servitude. Perhaps these culprits might be utilised to better effect were their statements on military life taken and regarded with that attention to which the facts entitle them. It is true that all the cases in which soldiers appear as criminals are not of this kind, in which the crime is committed for the mere sake of the punishment; therefore, in the other cases, the culprits are of the lowest—namely, the criminal class. How can it be reasonably expected that they should be of any higher, when it is seen that, after sufficient trial of the life of a soldier, many prefer that of a convict?

Dr. Sale hailed an omnibus tearing along the Strand. He was at once let in by the conductor, who slammed the door with the usual "All right!" It was not right, however, for all the seats were occupied, and, with the greatest deference in a general sense to medical science, the passengers as individuals objected to the supernumerary presence of a doctor in their midst, jolted from side to side in an omnibus. So Dr. Sale had to call to be let out again, and the conductor, still amiable, opened the door. The omnibus rattled on nevertheless, and the doctor was upset and dragged along through the mud in the road for some distance. The doctor declares the space thus travelled to have been fifty yards. On the other hand, the conductor, a perfectly calm and unbiassed spectator of the affair, describes it as only twenty. This affords a highly-interesting illustration of the manner in which human evidence may be involuntarily affected by personal feeling. To the worthy doctor, dragged along the Strand by a flying vehicle, and preserved from severe personal injury by the beneficent dispensation of thick mud, the journey appears actually more than double the length which it does to the reflective conductor, tranquilly standing upon the footboard of the vehicle and smiling at the miseries of human life generally and the especial misfortune before his eyes in particular. And yet, upon a measurement of the ground, it is found that the conductor was in the wrong, and that the doctor was correct in his estimation of the distance; whereupon the conductor is committed to gaol for fourteen days, without the alternative of a fine.

We last week detailed the case of Sarah Dyer, the poor sempstress, released without sentence from a charge of theft, she being at the time almost starving, but having various sums due to her from her employers. A subscription has been opened for her, and she now writes to the journals to say that, having received all the moneys due to her (£34 17s. 6d.), she considers it a duty to herself and those who have more need of assistance to decline further pecuniary aid. She adds:—"I feel that I have erred, and my solace will be in future industry and repentance, making amends, if possible, for my act of wrong."

Few cases brought before our courts of law resemble each other so closely in detail as those involving breach of promise of marriage. The defendant is usually a kind of semi-intellectual person suffering under a morbid propensity to write the boldest nonsense at the most wearisome length. The young lady is possessed of considerable personal attractions, and believes so intensely in the otherwise thoroughly uninteresting defendant as to treasure up his dull effusions as gems of literature and affection. The uninteresting one after a time grows wearied of this inexplicable adulation, and turns marriage to more practical account by marrying somebody with money. The case of *Armistage v. Chaplin*, recently tried, exhibited the usual number of these circumstances. The following letter, selected on account of its brevity, affords a specimen of defendant's style:—

My dear Girl, I hope, dear, you got home quite safe last night. It was better indeed, dear girl, to tell you last night. I do so hope, dear, you do not doubt me—do you, my girl? I love you as much as ever, dear, and think of you the same, day by day, as I am the same Robert, dear Clara, as I always was. Good-by, dearest Clara, with best love.

Your affectionate

ROBERT.

More than 300 of such letters as these were sent, and still the confiding Clara was not disenchanted. At last the defendant broke off the engagement on account of ill-health, and married another "dear girl" with £1200. For this little display of heartlessness and avarice a jury has awarded damages of £150, to which, if one adds costs on both sides, say as much again, the balance will still leave defendant £900 in pocket. The smallness of the damages can only be accounted for by the utter dullness of defendant's correspondence. The jury may have considered that to have dwelt day by day with the uninteresting Robert, to have walked with him, talked with him, and been doomed to his life-long society, might have been a harder fate than to be simply deserted by him. Thus we see that, by the benevolent law which Ralph Waldo Emerson denominates "compensation," there is some recompense to be expected even for being born dull.

In a case of petition for protection at the Insolvent Court, on Saturday last, Mr. Commissioner Murphy intimated that he had resolved, with the Chief Commissioner, to dismiss all similar petitions sine die where it appeared that the insolvent had made use of accommodation bills.

POLICE.

A FEMALE DETECTIVE.—John Winter, a rough fellow, was placed in the dock, charged with entering the premises of Mr. Vaughan, of Grenville-park, Blackheath, and stealing therefrom a quantity of silver plate, valued at £30.

Ann Smith, cook to the prosecutor, said that about half-past three o'clock on Friday se'night, looking through the kitchen window, she saw the skirts of a man's coat at the scullery-door. She immediately ran up stairs and rang the housemaid's bell, and then went to the front door. On hastening down the steps she saw the prisoner coming from the area, and seized him by the shoulders and asked him what he had got about him. He said, "Nothing," and struggled to get away, and in so doing dropped a silver watch. He then made his escape, throwing away the silver articles he had stolen as he approached the dwarf wall inclosing the garden. With-

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1889.